KCK950
Kodansha Comics Kiss
KC Kiss

こいいじ 1

KOI-IZI 1

志村貴子

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下町の銭湯「すずめ湯」の娘・まめは、
子供の頃からずっと
幼馴染みの聡ちゃんに片思い中。
聡ちゃんの妻・春さんが亡くなってから一年、
聡ちゃんの愛娘・優に慕われながら、
恋心を募らせるまめ——。
あきらめないヒロイン・
まめちゃんの一途な恋の行方は!?

講談社

こいいじ
Koi-izi
志村貴子

こいいじ

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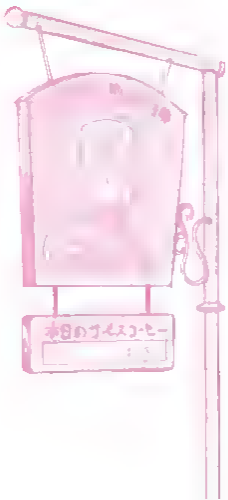

こいしんぼう

KOI-JIJI LOVE GLUTTON

志村貴子

Takako Shimura

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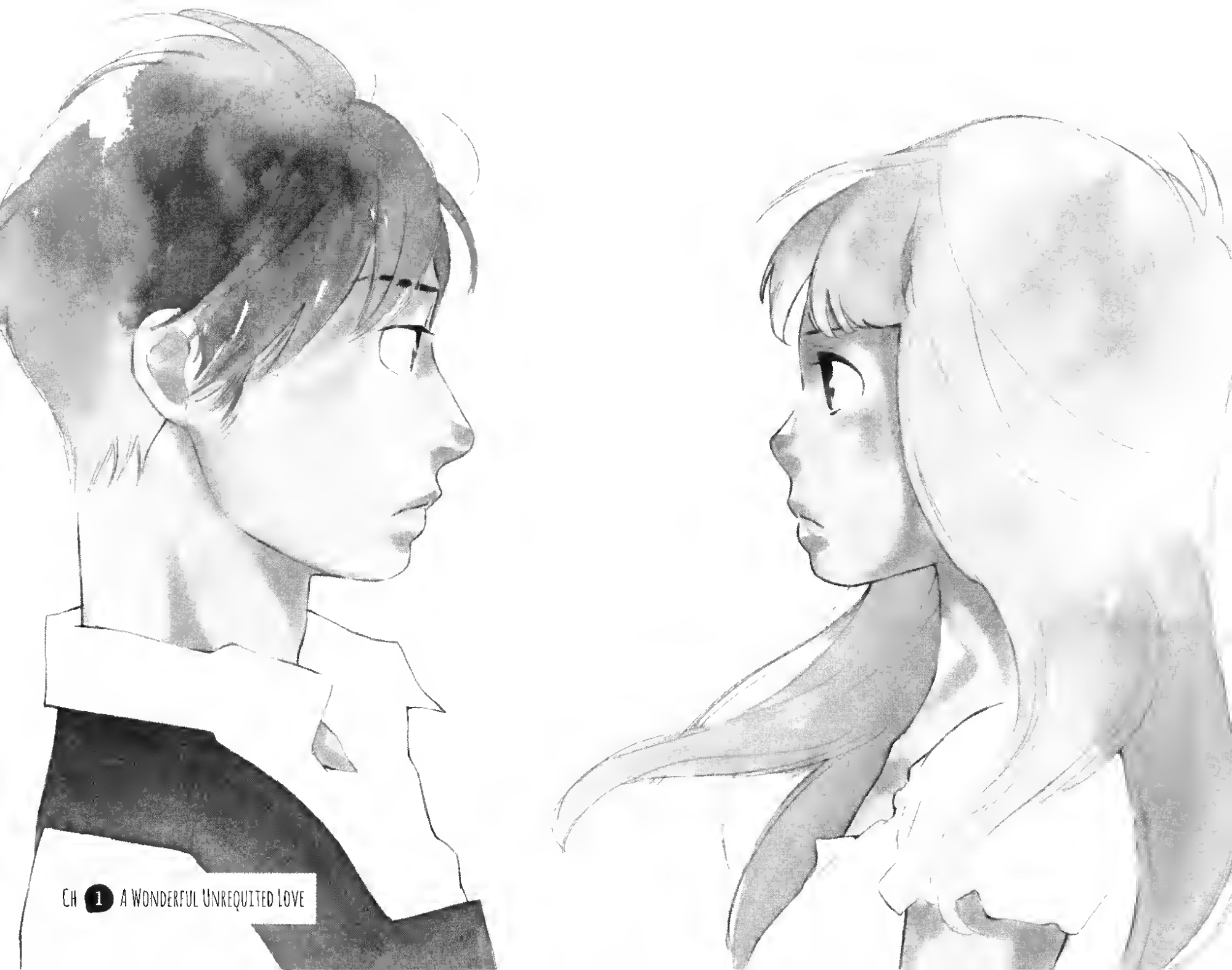
FOR ONE THING, THERE WAS A FUNERAL ON MY BIRTHDAY, SO I JUST WASN'T THINKING ABOUT IT AT ALL
I DIDN'T FEEL ANY JOY OVER TURNING 30.
THE MAEDAS' GRANDPA NEEDS A CHAIR
CAN YOU GET ONE, MAME?
SURE!

AND SHE WAS ALSO
AND I REALLY LIKED HER.
SHE WAS CARING AND BEAUTIFUL AND SWEET,

OF THE MAN I LOVED.
THE WIFE



Ch 1 A Wonderful Unrequited Love

KOI-JJI LOVE GLUTTON

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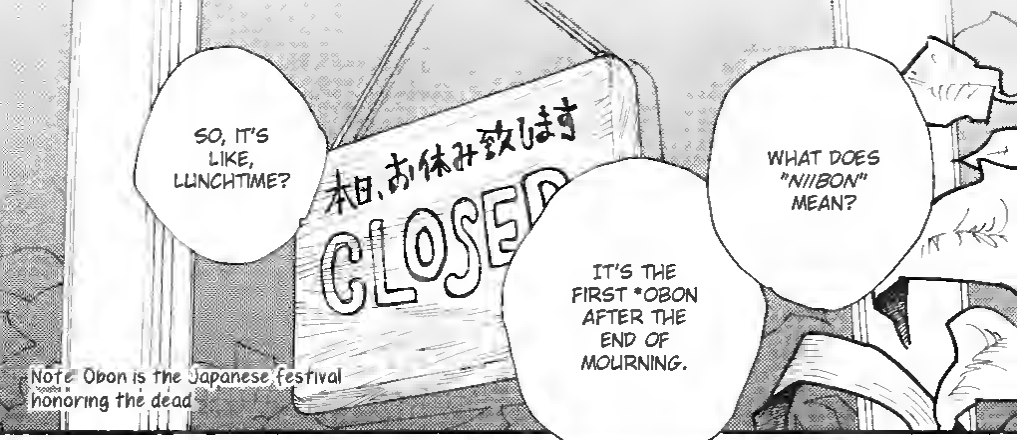
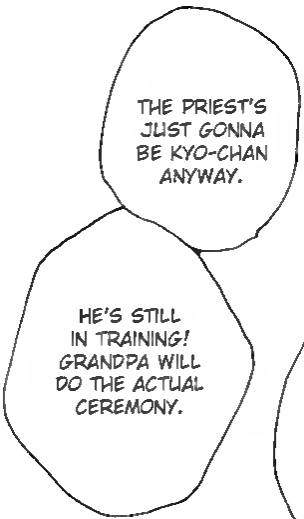

SO, IT'S LIKE, LUNCHTIME?
本日、お休み致します
CLOSED
WHAT DOES "NIIBON" MEAN?
IT'S THE FIRST *OBON AFTER THE END OF MOURNING.
Note: Obon is the Japanese festival honoring the dead

IT MEANS TO GRIEVE FOR SOMEONE,
AND TO HONOR THEIR MEMORY.

THEN WHAT?
NOT THAT KIND OF MORNING.

WHAT IS OBON ANYWAY?
STOP STALLING AND LET'S HEAD OVER TO THE TEMPLE.

SO WE'RE DONE HONORING MOM'S MEMORY?
WELL...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, BUT...


THE PRIEST'S JUST GONNA BE KYO-CHAN ANYWAY.
HE'S STILL IN TRAINING! GRANDPA WILL DO THE ACTUAL CEREMONY.

HAS IT BEEN A WHOLE YEAR SINCE HARU-CHAN DIED?
TIME DOES FLY.
ARE YOUR FOLKS ALL UPSTAIRS? HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO SHARE.
OH, THANK YOU!
WELCOME!
Sure is
It sure is hot out
HELLO.
PLEASE FOLLOW ME.
GRANDPA'S JUST FINISHING UP THE PREPARATIONS.
THANK YOU FOR DOING THE CEREMONY TODAY.
知平寺

Sign: Wahei Temple

Sign Wahei Temple
Children s Abacus Class
WHERE'S KYOICHI?
OH, HE'S BEEN EXCITED ALL MORNING.
GRANDPA ALWAYS HAS GOOD THINGS TO SAY ABOUT YOU, YU-CHAN.
SETTING COMPLETE!
THERE!
OH,
THANK YOU FOR COMING IN THIS HEAT.
Thank you for performing the ceremony today
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
SMACK
OW!
AKAI-SAN, THE FAMILY IS HERE.

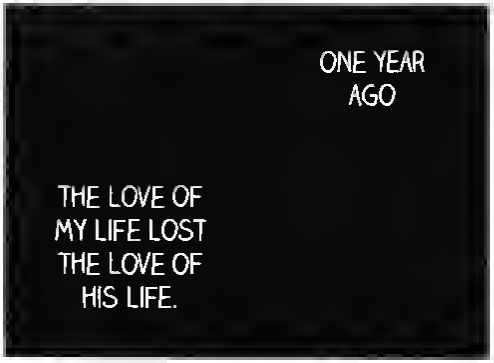
ALL RIGHT, SHALL WE GET STARTED?
Come on, Yu-chan
SHUN-CHAN'S NOT HERE YET.
DON'T BE SILLY.
WHAT? YOU MEAN THEY'RE NOT HAVING THE SERVICE AT HOME?
YOU IDIOT, WHERE'D THEY HAVE THE ROOM IN THEIR TINY PLACE?
AUNTIE... ARE MY DAD AND THEM HERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY LEFT FOR THE TEMPLE AGES AGO.
clomp clomp

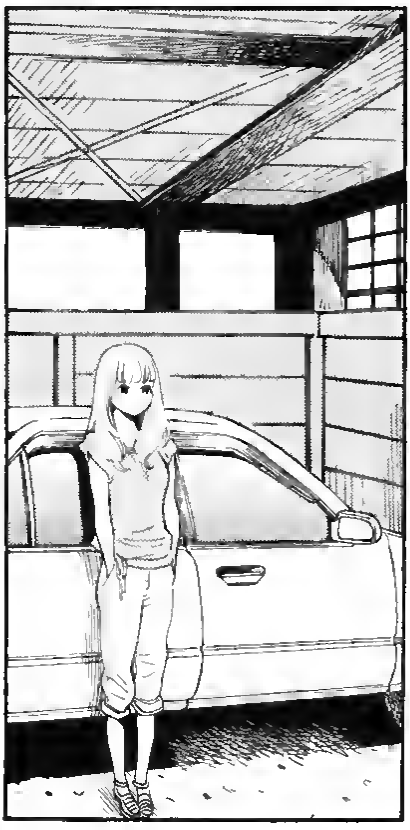
WELL... MY BAD.
SO HE NEEDS YOU TO TAKE HIM TO THE TEMPLE, MAME-CHAN.
IDIOT!
IT'S NOT YOUR HOUSE...
YOU WANNA COME IN?
THANKS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A YEAR.
YEAH.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL EVERYONE YOU'RE HERE

FINE.
I'LL WAIT IN THE CAR.

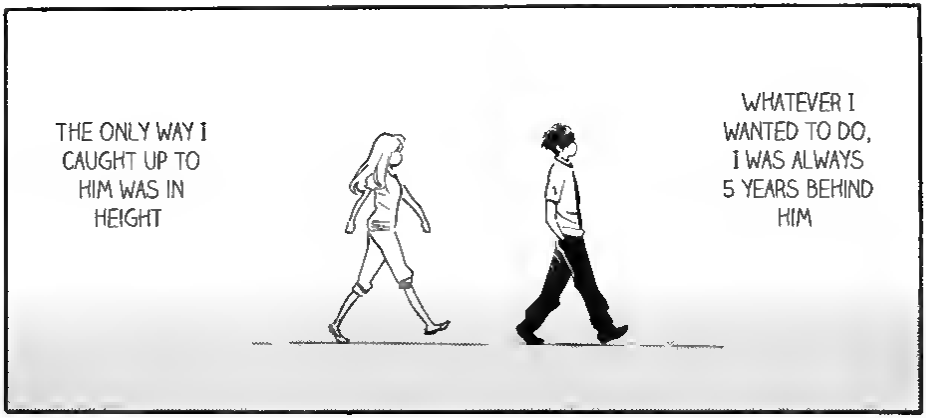
COME ON, YOU CAN GIVE ME A RIDE HOME THAT WAY.
WHAT!?
How rude

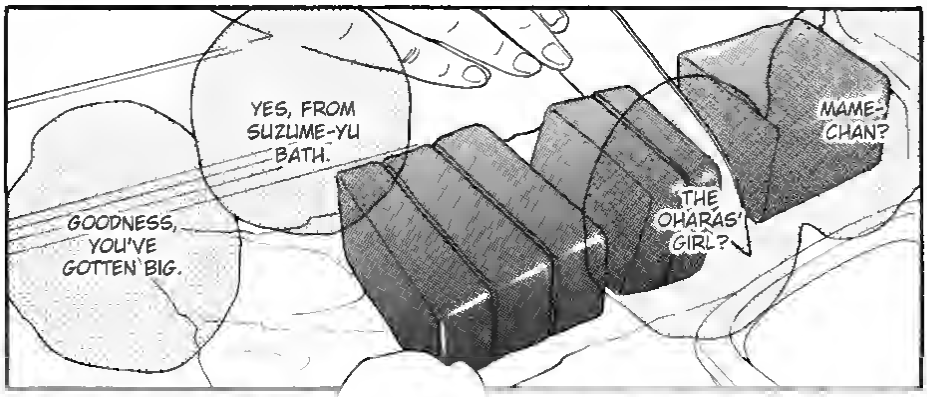

ONE YEAR AGO
THE LOVE OF MY LIFE LOST THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE.

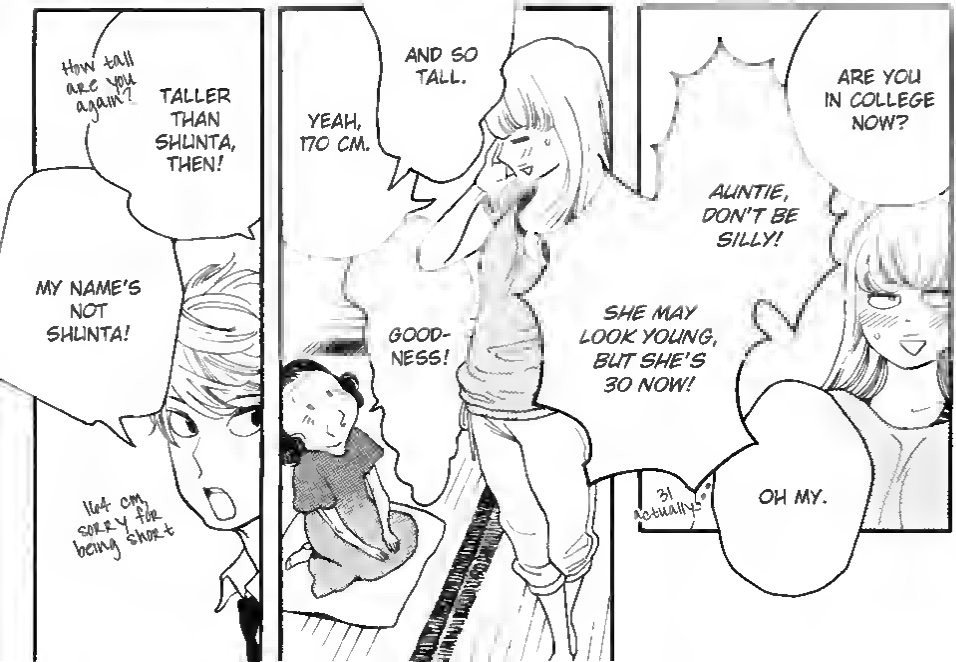


AND HE WAS THE LOVE OF HER LIFE, TOO,
WHICH MEANS...

I NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.
WILL DO.
WHY DON'T YOU INVITE MAME-CHAN UP FOR TEA.
Hehehe.
Waaah!
Waaah!
MY LEGS ARE ASLEEP!
SOU-CHAN IS 5 YEARS OLDER THAN ME—WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
HUH? OH, THANKS.
HEY, MAME, COME AND HAVE SOME TEA.


THE ONLY WAY I CAUGHT UP TO HIM WAS IN HEIGHT
WHATEVER I WANTED TO DO, I WAS ALWAYS 5 YEARS BEHIND HIM

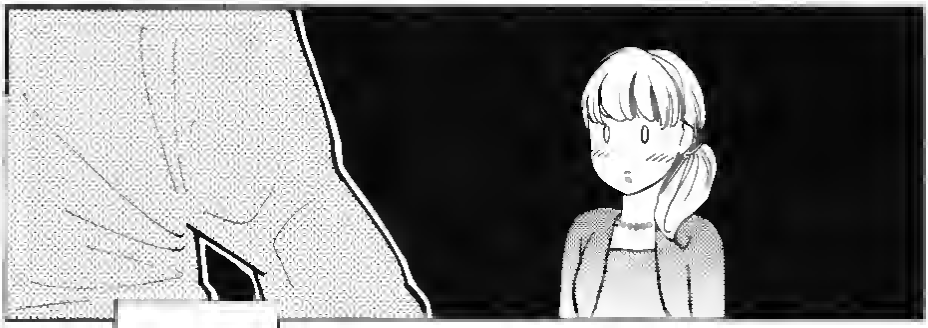

YES, FROM SUZUME-YU BATH.
GOODNESS, YOU'VE GOTTEN BIG.
MAME-CHAN?
THE OHARAS' GIRL?


How tall are you again?
TALLER THAN SHUNTA, THEN!
MY NAME'S NOT SHUNTA!
164 cm. SORRY for being short
AND SO TALL.
YEAH, 170 CM.
GOOD-NESS!
ARE YOU IN COLLEGE NOW?
AUNTIE, DON'T BE SILLY!
SHE MAY LOOK YOUNG, BUT SHE'S 30 NOW!
31 actually
OH MY.

I USED TO COPY THE ADULTS AND CALL HIM SHUNTA, TOO.
HIS NAME IS REALLY SHUN, BUT BECAUSE HE'S SOUTA'S BROTHER, THE POOR KID GOT SADDLED WITH THE NICKNAME SHUNTA.
SHUN IS SOU-CHAN'S LITTLE BROTHER
How much Yokan do you want?
Just that little sliver on the end is good
KYOICHI FROM THE TEMPLE WAS ALSO OUR CLASSMATE.
HE'S THE SAME AGE AS ME AND IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS 3 TIMES
Me!
Me!
SO AFTER THAT I NEVER CALLED HIM THAT AGAIN
BUT HE REALLY SEEMED TO HATE IT.
MY NAME'S NOT SHUNTA.
DON'T YOU CALL ME SHUNTA, TOO.
SHUN'S THE ONLY ONE WHO WISHED ME HAPPY BIRTHDAY WHEN I TURNED 30.
AND..

Sign: Haruko's Funeral
春子儀葬儀式場
MAME.
NEED ANY HELP?
HUH? SHOULDN'T YOU BE GREETING PEOPLE?
THEY TOLD ME TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY 'CAUSE I STICK OUT TOO MUCH.
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WITH THAT HAIR!?
IT'S RIDICULOUS AT YOUR AGE.
Blond
BUT I'M STILL 29.
YOU'LL BE 30, TOO, IN ANOTHER 2 MONTHS!

TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY,
ISN'T IT?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.



WE'RE THE SAME AGE AND GET ALONG WELL
SHUN IS
THE ONE I SHOULD HAVE FALLEN FOR
HE'S A LITTLE FLIGHTY, BUT HE'S KIND.

HE'S A BIT ROUGH, BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY...
Need any help, Auntie?
Oh

BUT
INSTEAD I FELL FOR...

HEY, YU!
TIME TO GO HOME!
HAHA!
MM...
SHE'S ALL TIRED OUT AFTER THE CEREMONY.
WE'RE GONNA STOP AT A RESTAURANT.
OH!
I WANT A HAMBURG SET!
LET'S GET GOING BEFORE TRAFFIC HITS.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN THE ONE DRIVING!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL TAKE THE BUS HOME.
WHAT? WE CAN ALL FIT IF WE SQUEEZE.
OH, IT'S NO BOTHER.
Bye-bye, Yu-chan
Grandmaaa
WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE NEXT ABACUS CLASS, YU-CHAN.
BYYYYE!

WHO ORDERED THE ROYAL HAMBURG STEAK SET?
MEEEE!
OOH... YUM!
I MEAN, GOING BY AGE, IT'S NOT TOO MUCH OF A STRETCH...
YOU'RE THE SAME AGE!
YOU GUYS LOOK SO MUCH LIKE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER RIGHT NOW.
YOU'VE GOT RICE ON YOUR CHEEK

YEAH, YEAH.
QUIT BEING WEIRD AND JUST EAT YOUR FOOD!
Yay! Free food!
OH, I'LL GET IT.
YOU GUYS GO ON AND WAIT AT THE CAR.
That'll be 2 lies yen
Come on Yu!
Squeeze
WHAT'S WRONG?

WH-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
IT'S OK. I KNOW.
YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU?
MAME-CHAN,
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF SOUTA-KUN.
WHAT!?
SERIOUSLY. EVEN I CAN TELL.
HEY, KIDDO!
WH-
WHAT!?
ARE YOU FOR REAL!?
ANYONE COULD SEE YOU'RE HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR HIM.
D'YOU FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE OF MY MOM?
JEEZ, QUIT IT, YOU'RE SCARING ME.
WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?

...YEAH.
BECAUSE OF HARU-SAN
AND YOU...
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HIM.
BUT IT WAS UNREQUITED AND HE REJECTED ME LONG AGO.

SOU-CHAN REJECTED ME LONG AGO...
THE FIRST TIME WAS WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH
AGE 13
UM, SOU-CHAN!
I LIKE YOU!!
UM... I...
AGE 18
I SEE.
THANKS.
OK.

WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY?
BUT, BUT HE THANKED ME!
Did he not even take me seri-ously?
THE NEXT DAY...
THE SECOND TIME WAS WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL
THE LAST TIME WAS AT MY COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY
I'D HEARD HE JUST BROKE UP WITH A DIFFERENT GIRLFRIEND...
THANKS.
HE ANSWERED ME WITH A SLIGHTLY AWKWARD LOOK ON HIS FACE, BUT HE ALREADY HAD A GIRLFRIEND HE'D MET IN ONE OF HIS COLLEGE CLASSES
SOU-CHAN, I'M SERIOUS.
I REALLY LIKE YOU.
AGE 16
AGE 21

BUT HE ASKED TO TALK TO ME BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO ASK HIM.
THIS IS MY CHANCE.
OR SO I THOUGHT.
IT WAS NO USE TELLING MYSELF NOT TO GET MY HOPES UP.
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
WOW, YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL TODAY.
CONGRATS ON BECOMING AN ADULT.
EEEEE! THANK YOU!
It's embarrassing being complimented to my face, but I'm so happy!!

HAHA.
HUH... THAT'S WHAT YOU CALLED ME OVER TO SAY?
Ba dump
Ba dump
Ba dump
YOU SEE, MAME...
YES...?
I WANTED TO TELL YOU...
I'M GETTING MARRIED.
BAM!

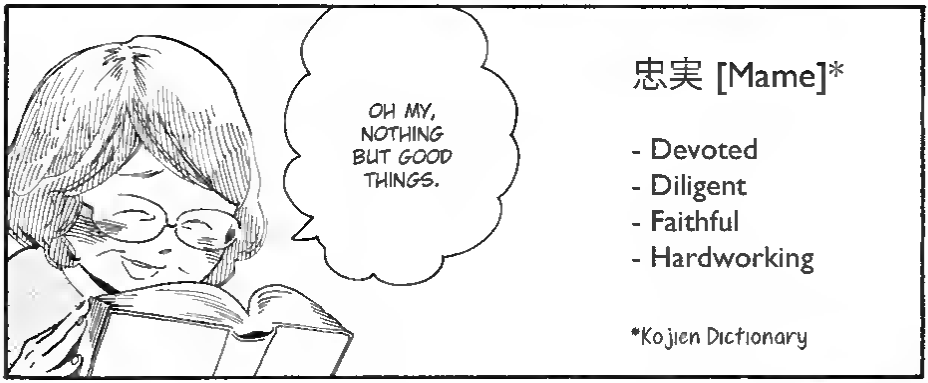
C-CONGRATU-LATIONS.
THAT WAS THE BEST I COULD MANAGE
OF COURSE I COULDN'T SAY THAT
TO ME?
GOODBYE.
I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER.

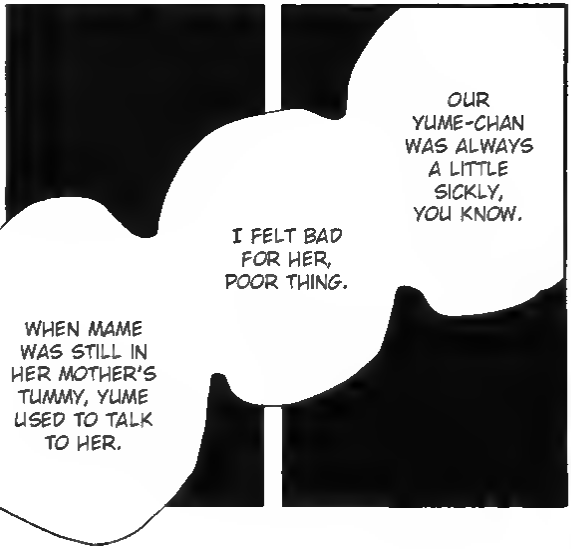
GOODBYE, MY SOU-CHAN...
THOUGH YOU'VE NEVER ONCE BEEN MINE
HEY!
DON'T MAKE ME CRY!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SAD YOUR MOM'S DEAD, SO DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
YEAH, I AM SAD. AND LONELY.
I...
WOULD REALLY LOVE IT IF SOUTA-KUN GOT REMARRIED TO YOU.
YU!
...

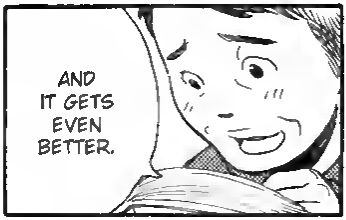
HARU-SAN'S YOUR ONLY MOM.
Ooooooh-!
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO BE MY MOM.
HEY!
NO!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT, MOM!
HARU-SAN WOULD BE SAD IF SHE HEARD THAT...
ANYWAY, I CAN'T EVEN GET MY HEAD AROUND GETTING REMARRIED.
COME ON, LET'S GO HOME.
Comiiii-ng
WHY!?
BUT IF YOU GET REMARRIED, MARRY MAME-CHAN, OK?
HARU-SAN IS MY ONLY MOM,
Squeeze
I FIGURED AS MUCH.
I'M JUST LONELY!

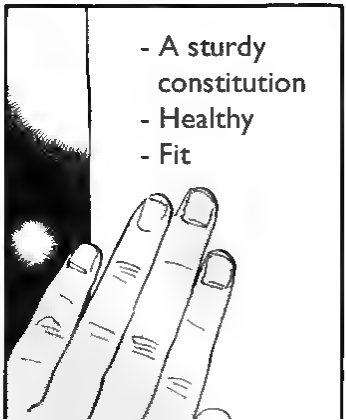
I'M HOME!
OH, MAME-CHAN.
GOOD TIMING.
IT'S YOUR SISTER!
INTER-NATIONAL CALL!
HUH? YOU HAVE TO GO ALREADY?
OH, I SEE...
WELL, CALL BACK WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN.
TALK TO YOU THEN!
MAME-CHAN, ISN'T IT WONDER-FUL?
YUME-CHAN'S GOING TO BE MOVING BACK HOME!
OH, REALLY?
BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
HMPH, THANKS FOR HOGGING THE PHONE, DEAR.

IT'S WRITTEN
忠実.
MY DAD GAVE ME THE NAME "MAME"

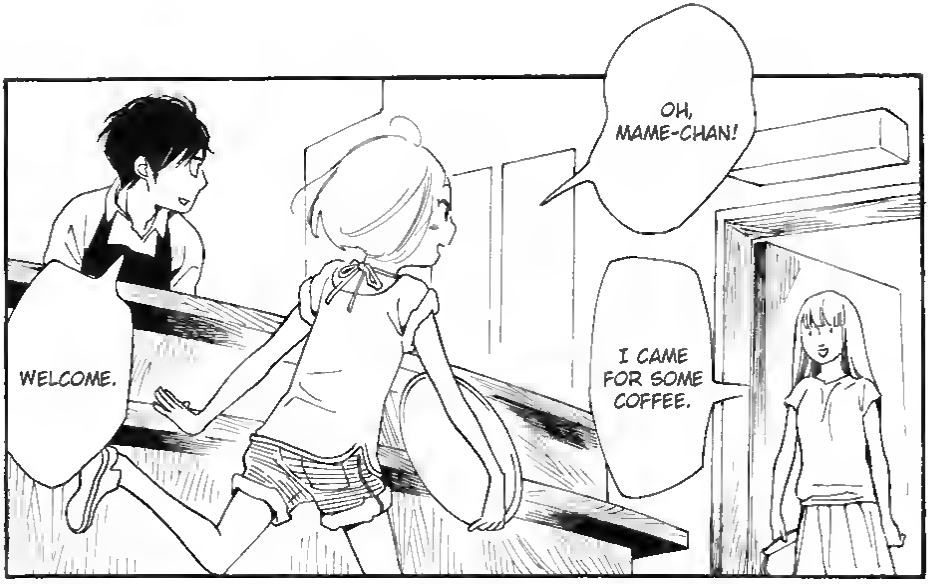

OH MY, NOTHING BUT GOOD THINGS.
忠実 [Mame]*
- Devoted
- Diligent
- Faithful
- Hardworking
*Kojien Dictionary

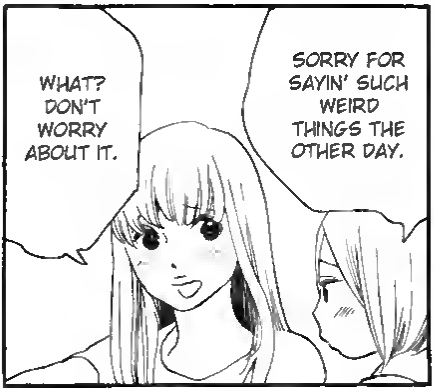

WHEN MAME WAS STILL IN HER MOTHER'S TUMMY, YUME USED TO TALK TO HER.
I FELT BAD FOR HER, POOR THING.
OUR YUME-CHAN WAS ALWAYS A LITTLE SICKLY, YOU KNOW.

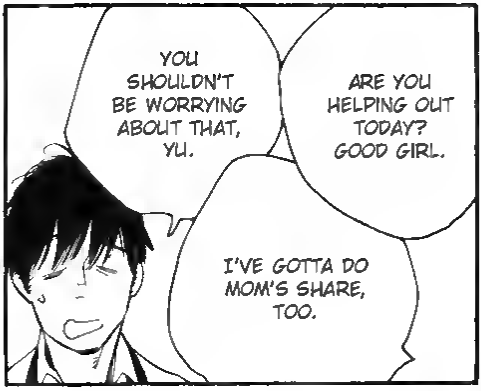

AND IT GETS EVEN BETTER.

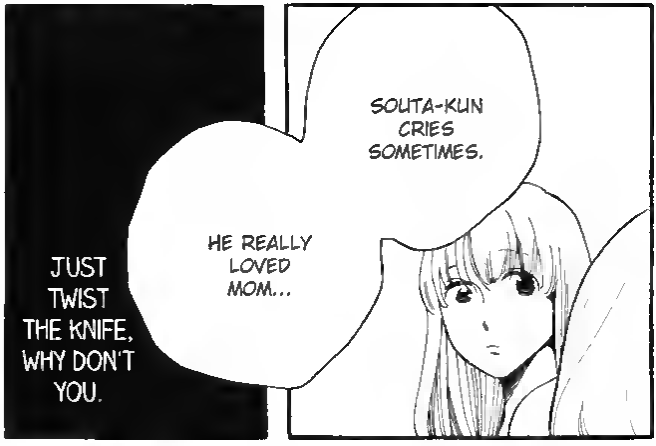

- A sturdy constitution
- Healthy
- Fit

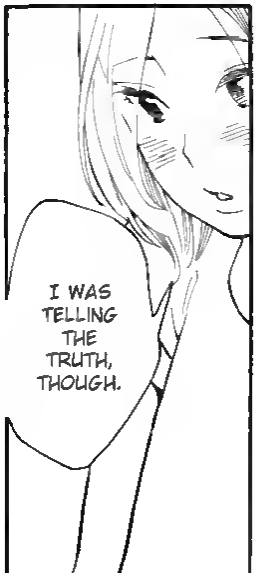
AND THEN YUME GREW UP TO BE BIG AND STRONG
AND WENT OFF TO DO SOME RESEARCH OR SOMETHING HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD.
WORLD MAP
IT WAS THE AMAZON
MY DAD WAS ALWAYS TELLING THIS STORY TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN
I HOPE MY NEW LITTLE SISTER IS HEALTHY!
ISN'T THAT GREAT, MEOW-CHAN? SHE'S COMING HOME.
WELCOME!


OH, MAME-CHAN!
I CAME FOR SOME COFFEE.
WELCOME.


SORRY FOR SAYIN' SUCH WEIRD THINGS THE OTHER DAY.
WHAT? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

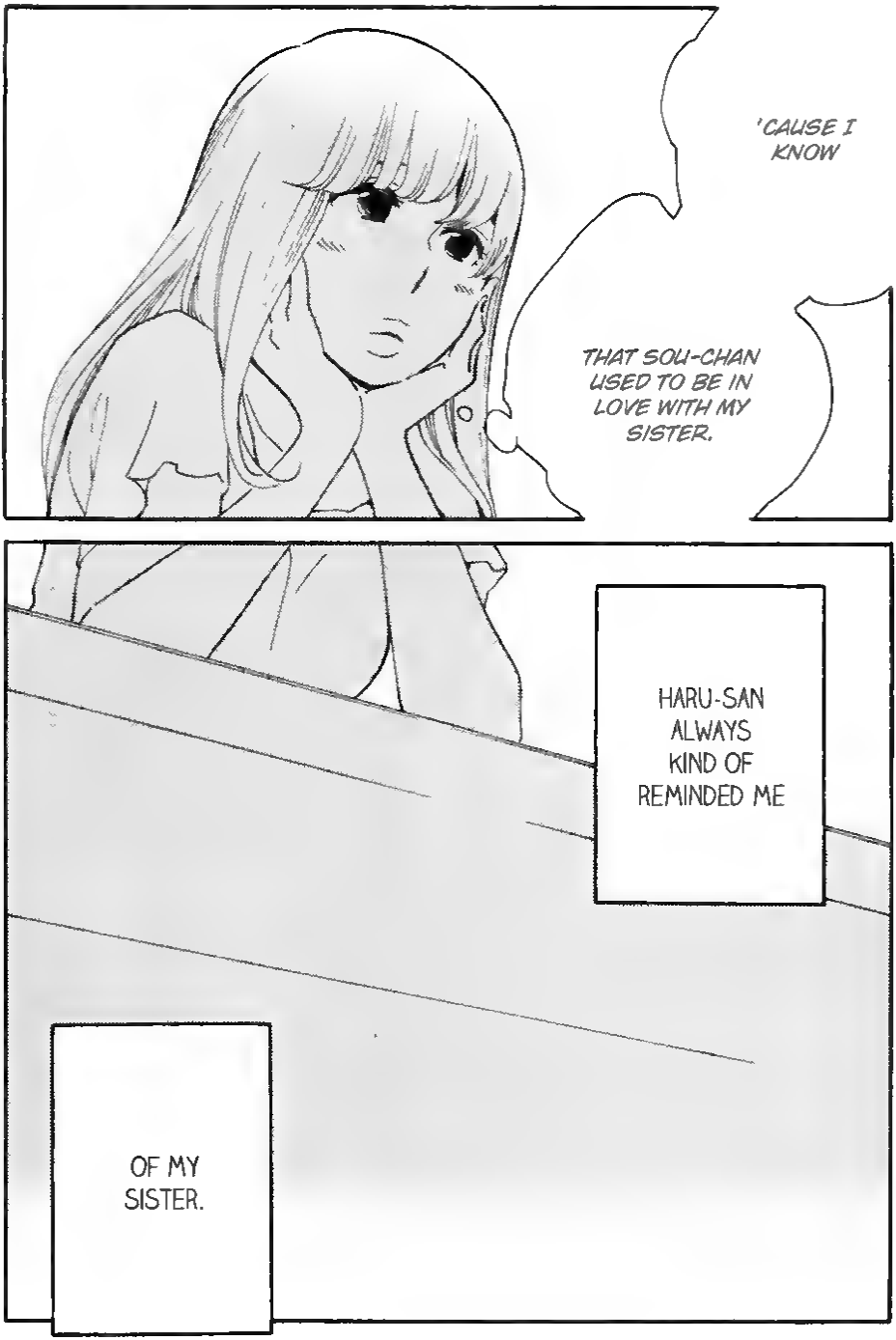

ARE YOU HELPING OUT TODAY? GOOD GIRL.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE WORRYING ABOUT THAT, YU.
I'VE GOTTA DO MOM'S SHARE, TOO.


SOUTA-KUN CRIES SOMETIMES.
HE REALLY LOVED MOM...
JUST TWIST THE KNIFE, WHY DON'T YOU.


I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, THOUGH.

BUT I'M SORRY TO SAY MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS "THE TIMING COULDN'T BE WORSE"...

I LOVE MY SISTER AND I'M GLAD SHE'S COMING BACK.


'CAUSE I KNOW
THAT SOU-CHAN USED TO BE IN LOVE WITH MY SISTER.
HARU-SAN ALWAYS KIND OF REMINDED ME
OF MY SISTER.

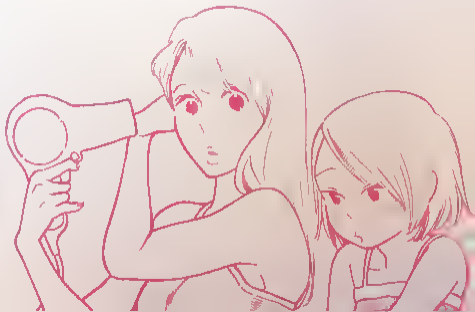
こいいじ

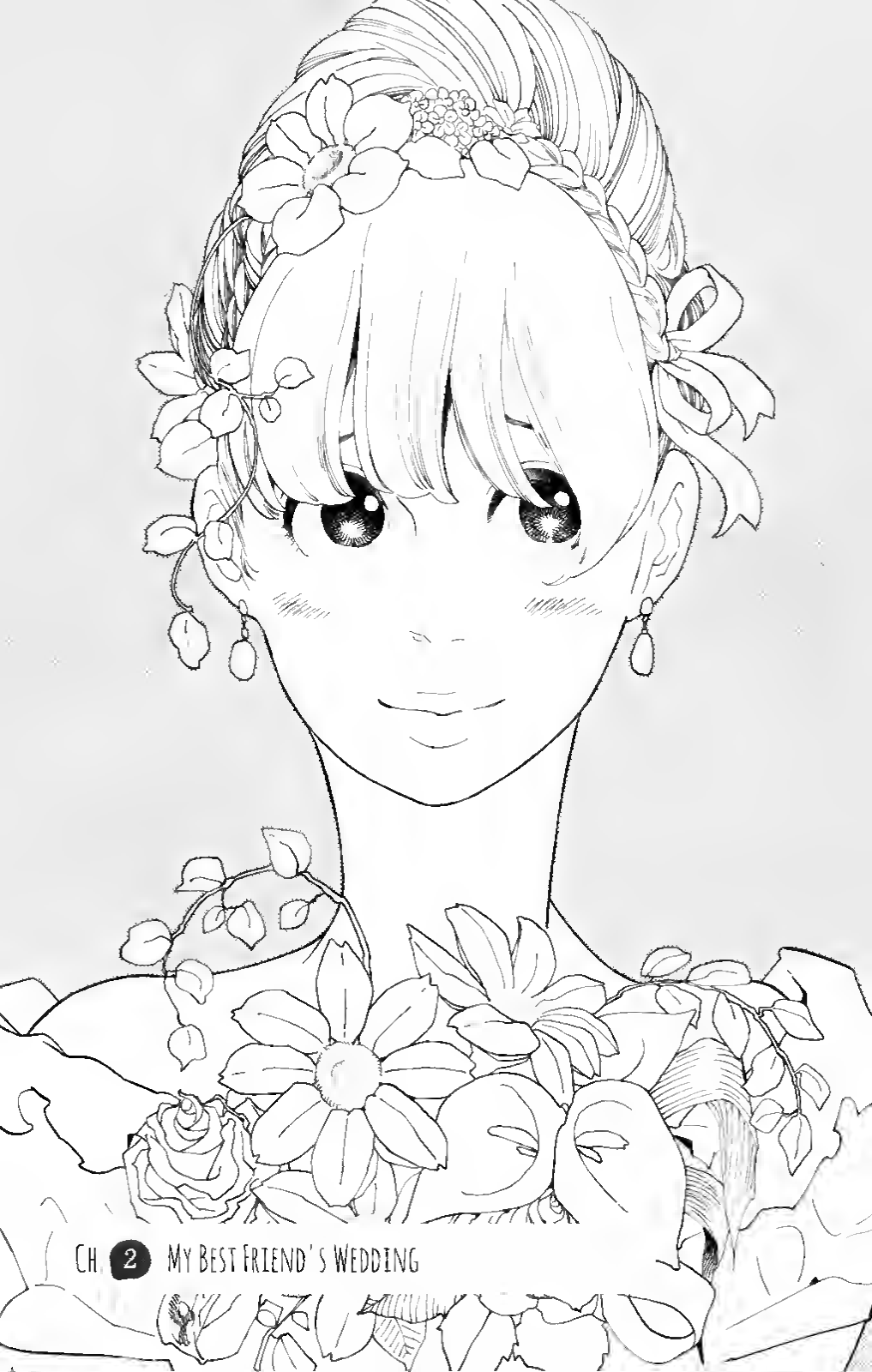
CH 2

By Shimura Takako

MEGUMI [illegible]

TRANSLATION — MEGCHAN
[illegible] — MIGER
[illegible] — MIGER



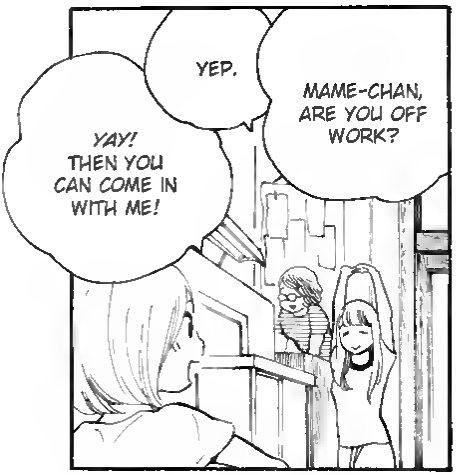


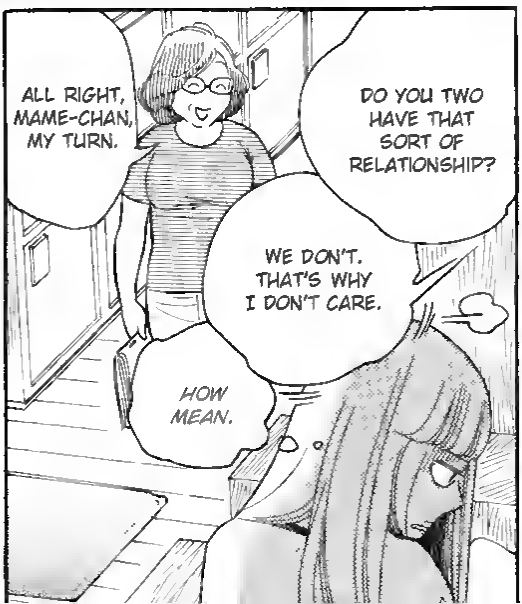
Ch. 2 My Best Friend's Wedding

MIRIN
Whiiirrr
WELCO-
OH.
HEY.
HURRY UP, YU!
COMING!

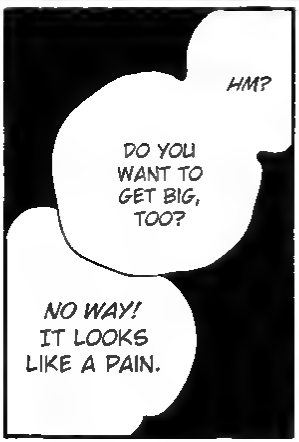
I DON'T CARE.
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T LOOK!
HUH?

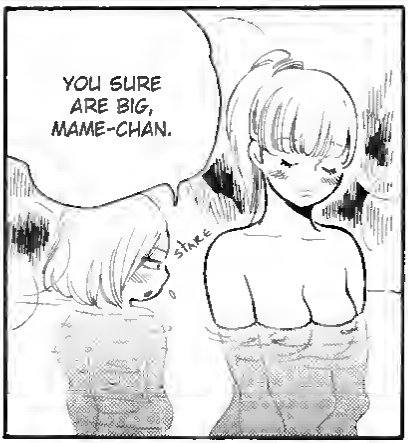
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
OH MY!

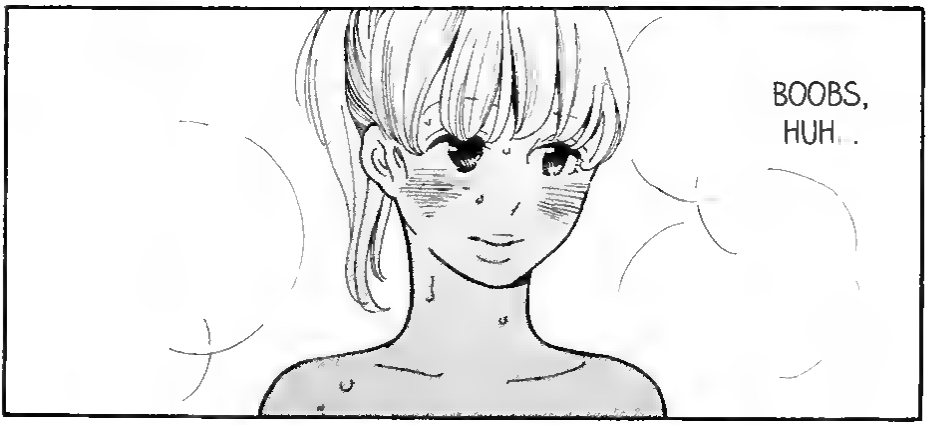

YEP.
MAME-CHAN, ARE YOU OFF WORK?
YAY! THEN YOU CAN COME IN WITH ME!

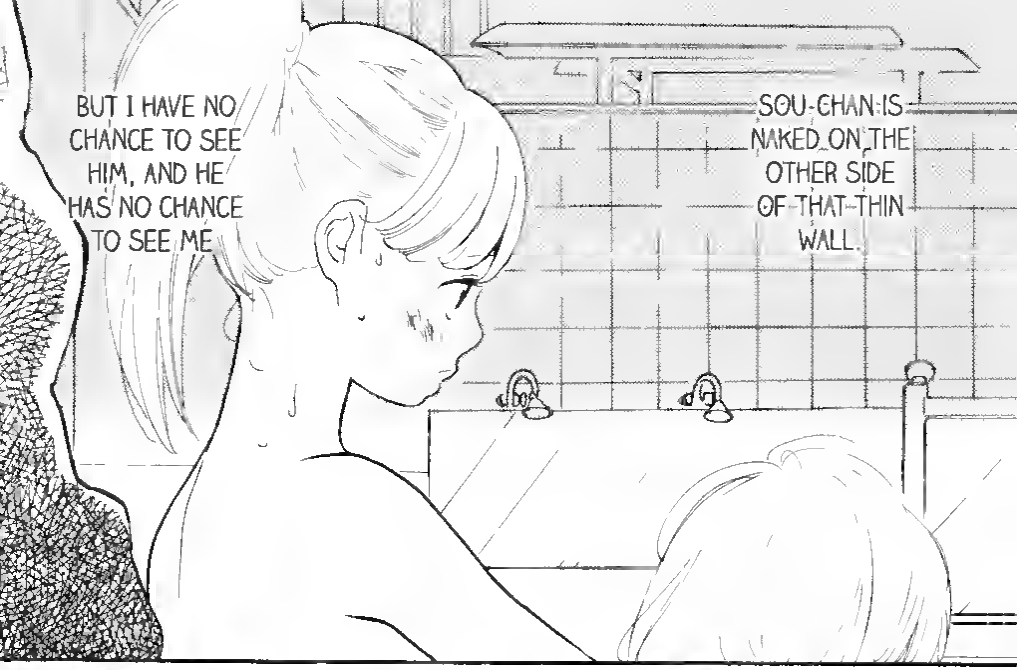

ALL RIGHT, MAME-CHAN, MY TURN.
DO YOU TWO HAVE THAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP?
WE DON'T. THAT'S WHY I DON'T CARE.
HOW MEAN.

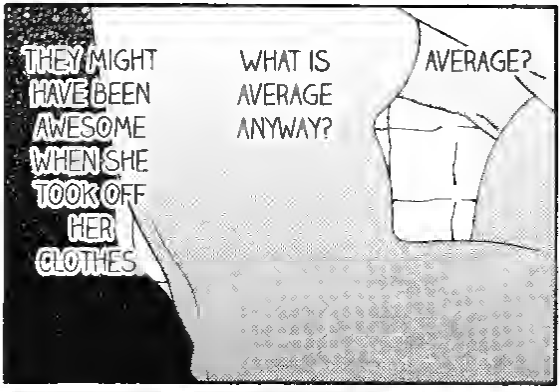
Th-
this little
brat.


HM?
DO YOU WANT TO GET BIG, TOO?
NO WAY! IT LOOKS LIKE A PAIN.


YOU SURE ARE BIG, MAME-CHAN.
SHAKE


BOOBS, HUH. .


BUT I HAVE NO CHANCE TO SEE HIM, AND HE HAS NO CHANCE TO SEE ME
SOU-CHAN IS NAKED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT THIN WALL.

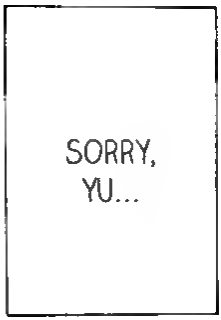

THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AWESOME WHEN SHE TOOK OFF HER CLOTHES
WHAT IS AVERAGE ANYWAY?
AVERAGE?

WHAT DID HARU-SAN'S BOOBS LOOK LIKE?
What're you doing?

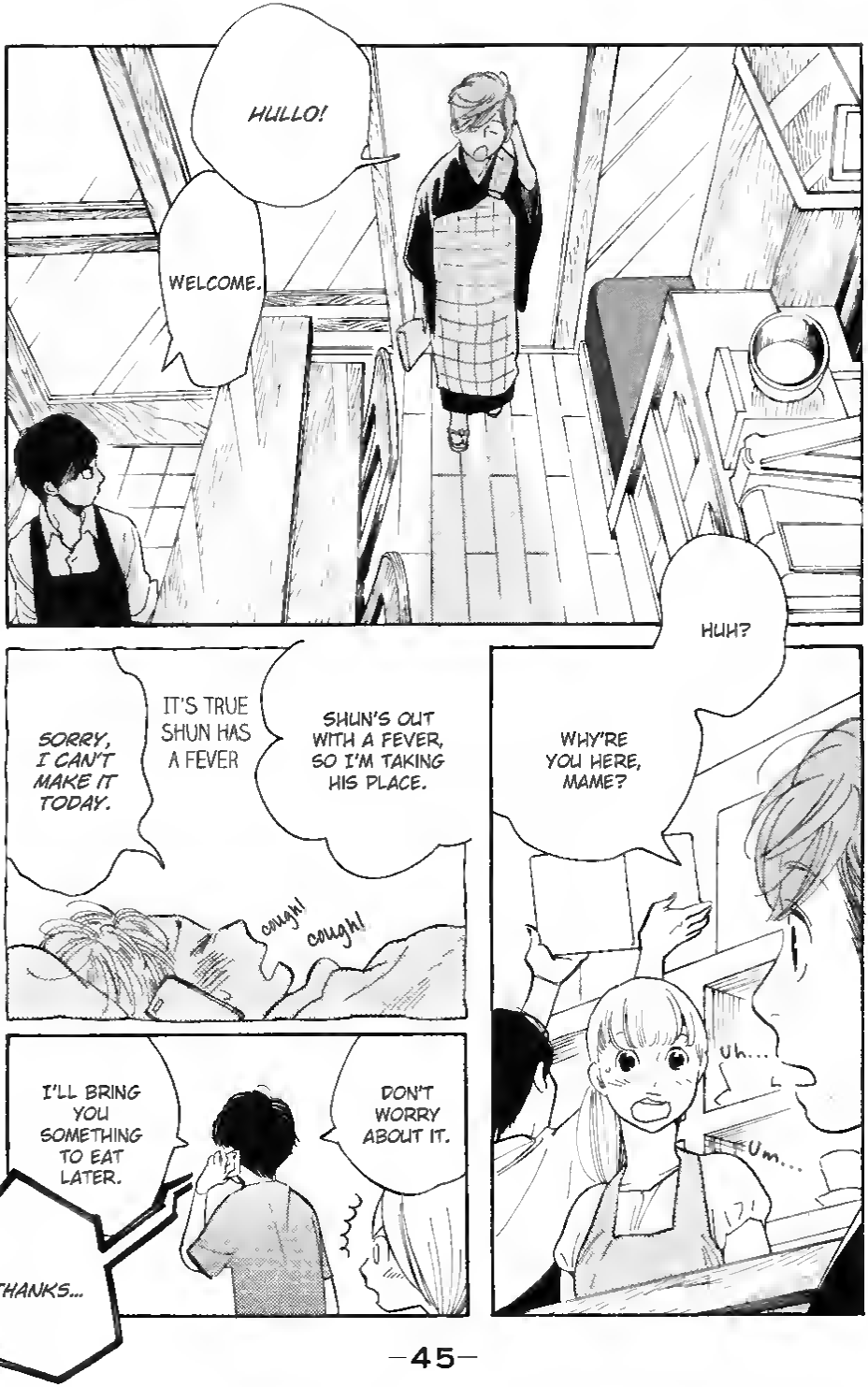
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM
IT'S NOT ABOUT BOOBS
ANYWAY,

THE PROBLEM IS
HE DOESN'T
WANT ME.

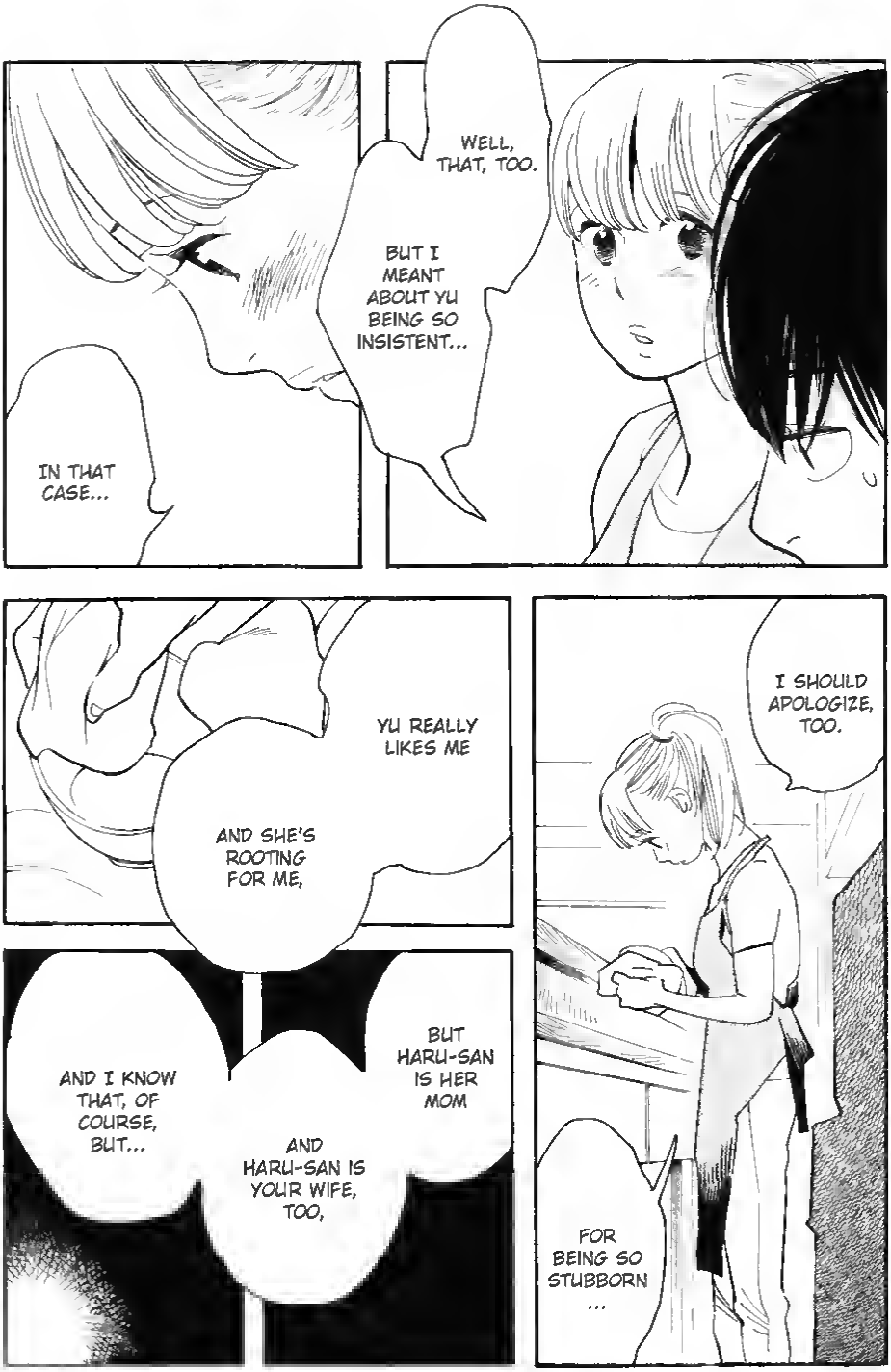
WELL, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
YEAH.
HARU-SAN WAS LOVELY.
JANGLE...
DRYER 20 YEN
OH...
I LIKE HOW DEVOTED YOU'VE BEEN.
BUT...


SORRY, YU...

THE TRUTH IS...
I HAVEN'T BEEN AS DEVOTED AS YOU THINK...
Squeak
Vrooom-


HULLO!
WELCOME.
HUH?
WHY'RE YOU HERE, MAME?
Uh...
Um...
SHUN'S OUT WITH A FEVER, SO I'M TAKING HIS PLACE.
IT'S TRUE SHUN HAS A FEVER
SORRY, I CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY.
cough! cough!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'LL BRING YOU SOMETHING TO EAT LATER.
THANKS...

THERE'S NO HARM IN ASKING, RIGHT?
Right...?
MAME HAS HER OWN JOB.
GRANNY AND GRANDPA CAN TAKE CARE OVER THERE.
HEY, LET'S ASK MAME-CHAN TO COME!
Hurry up and get to school
OH, HELLO. MAME? OF COURSE YOU CAN BORROW HER. HOW'S SHUNTA FEELING?
WHAT?
SORRY ABOUT THAT...
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THIS WAY I CAN DROP IN ON SHUN AFTERWARDS, TOO.


IN THAT CASE...
WELL, THAT, TOO.
BUT I MEANT ABOUT YU BEING SO INSISTENT...
YU REALLY LIKES ME
AND SHE'S ROOTING FOR ME,
AND I KNOW THAT, OF COURSE, BUT...
AND HARU-SAN IS YOUR WIFE, TOO,
BUT HARU-SAN IS HER MOM
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE, TOO.
FOR BEING SO STUBBORN ...

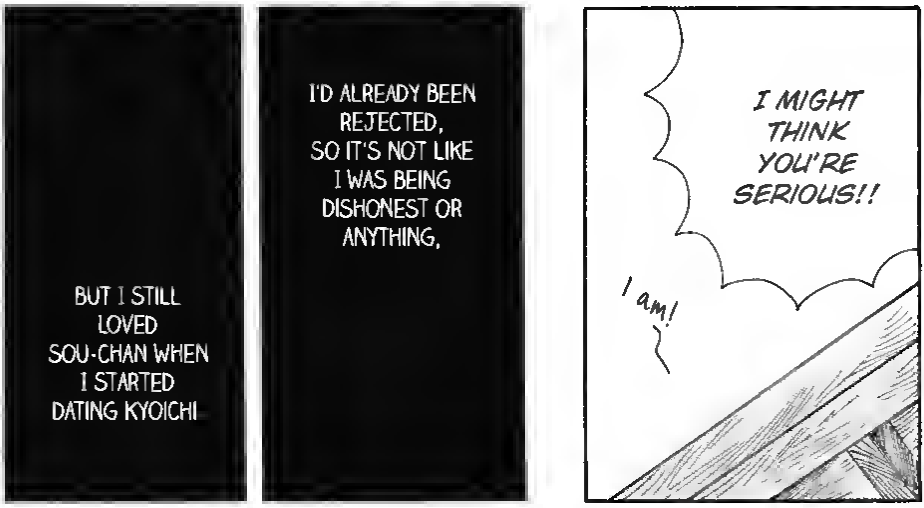
SO I HOPE WE CAN HANG OUT WITHOUT IT BEING A BIG THING.
I JUST WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY.
FINISHED WITH WORK?
THAT'S KYOICHI FROM THE TEMPLE.
YEP.
TWO SERVICES THIS MORNING.

WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE,
HE AND I WENT OUT FOR A WHILE
IT WAS AROUND THE TIME SOU-CHAN GOT MARRIED
SNIFF...
ULP!
SNIFFLE...

I HEARD SOME UGLY CRYING AND WONDERED WHO IT WAS.
OH, IF IT ISN'T MAME.
SERIOUS-LY?
YEAH, SERIOUS-LY...
...YEAH.
HEART-BREAK?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HOW 'BOUT I BE YOUR BOYFRIEND THEN?
MAKE ME FEEL BETTER!
COME ON!!
IF YOU INSIST.

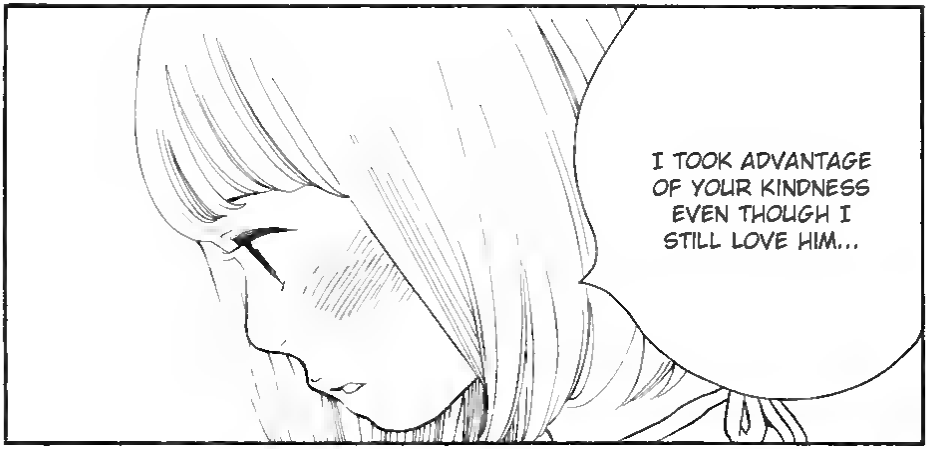
YOU'RE CUTE AND YOU'VE GOT A NICE RACK. WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

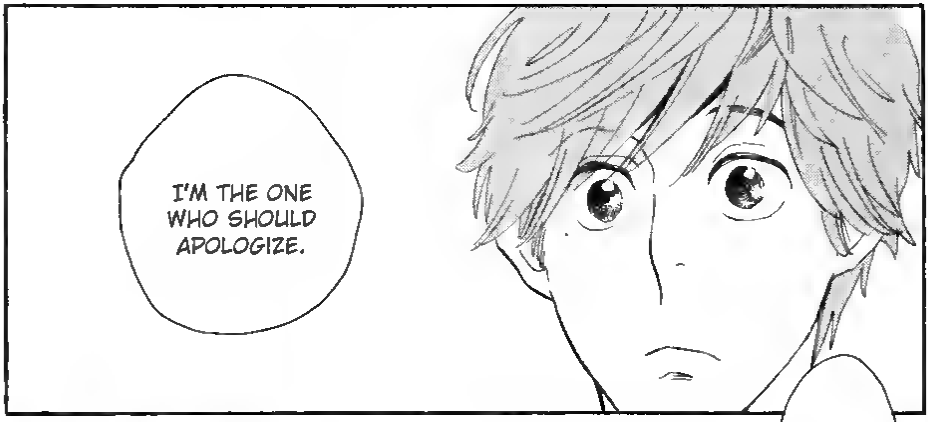
YOU SHOULDN'T JOKE LIKE THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

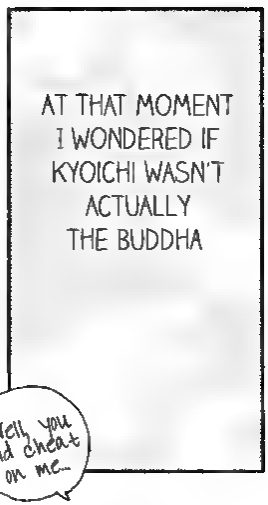

I MIGHT THINK YOU'RE SERIOUS!!
I am!
I'D ALREADY BEEN REJECTED, SO IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS BEING DISHONEST OR ANYTHING,
BUT I STILL LOVED SOU-CHAN WHEN I STARTED DATING KYOICHI

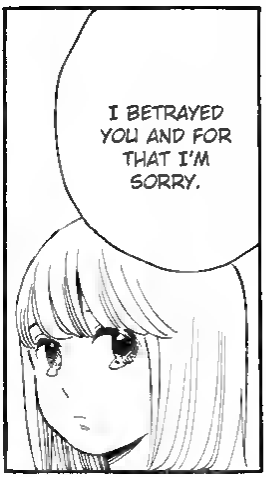
Sign: Looking for new cemetery
新設墓地募集中
I'M SORRY, KYOICHI...
TODAY'S THE DAY I'M GOING TO TELL YOU.
OH, MAME-CHAN. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
IS KYO-CHAN IN?
YEAH, HE'S UPSTAIRS. HE HAS A VISITOR, THOUGH.
A WOMAN ...
KYOICHI, IT'S ME.

UH, SORRY, MAME...
THERE'S ANOTHER GIRL...
UNDER THE BLANKETS.
My bad...
Mame...
I LIKE YOU,
BUT I STARTED DATING YOU WHEN I WASN'T EVEN OVER THE GUY WHO DUMPED ME.
THAT'S NOT IT.
I'M SORRY ...!
pant
pant
pant

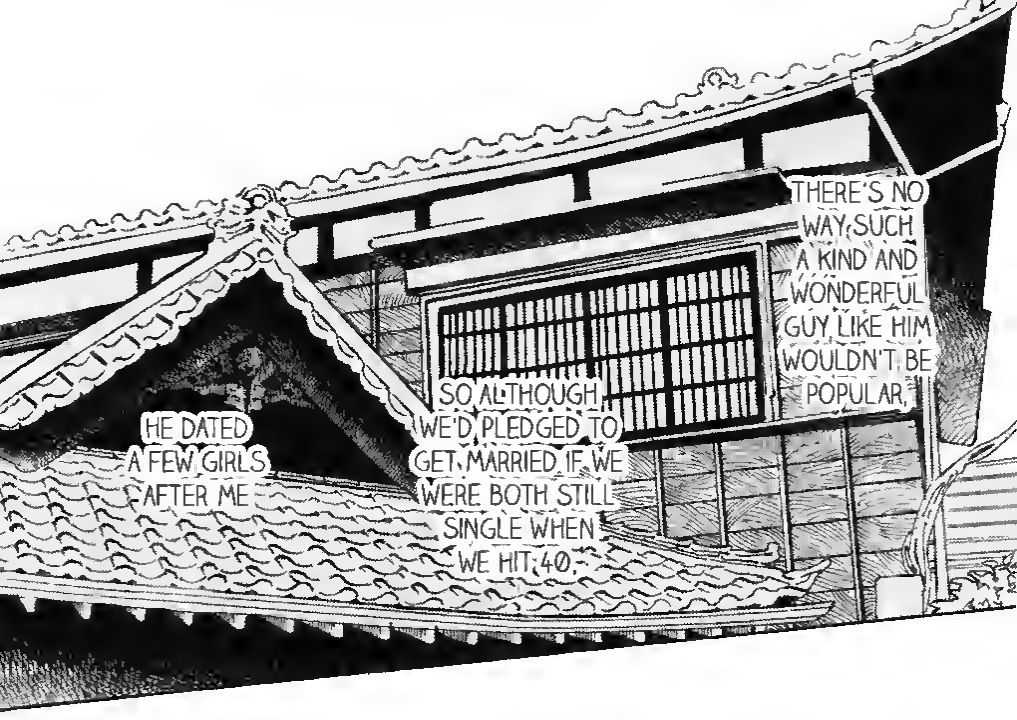

I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR KINDNESS EVEN THOUGH I STILL LOVE HIM...


I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

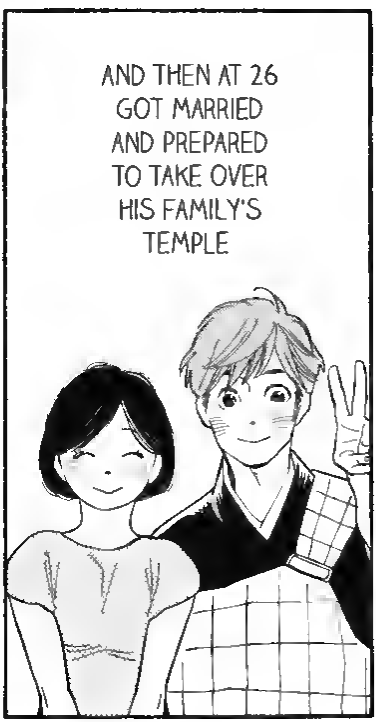

AT THAT MOMENT I WONDERED IF KYOICHI WASN'T ACTUALLY THE BUDDHA
Well, you did cheat on me...


I BETRAYED YOU AND FOR THAT I'M SORRY.

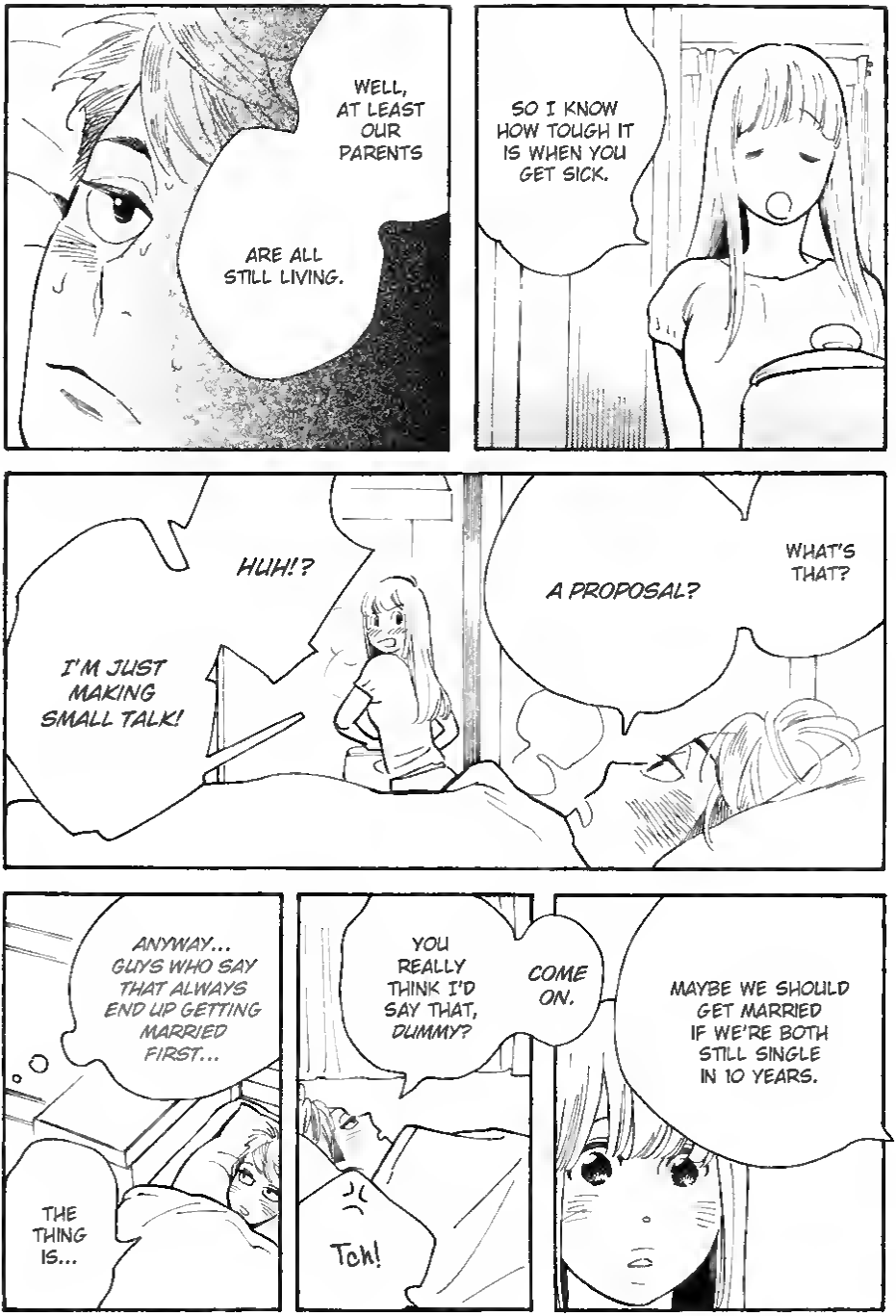
UH...
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THAT.
You still love him?

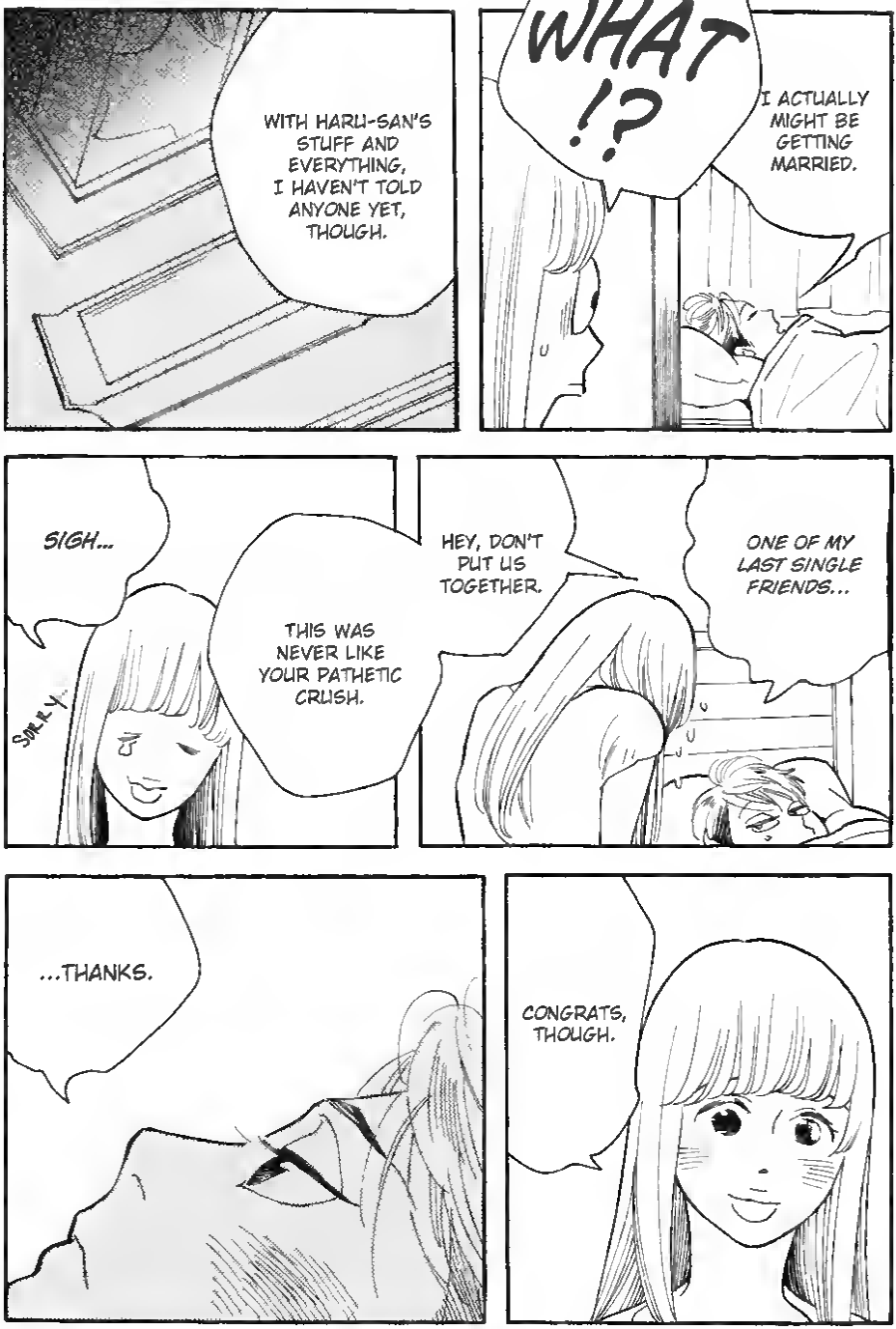

HE DATED A FEW GIRLS AFTER ME
SO ALTHOUGH WE'D PLEDGED TO GET MARRIED IF WE WERE BOTH STILL SINGLE WHEN WE HIT 40...
THERE'S NO WAY SUCH A KIND AND WONDERFUL GUY LIKE HIM WOULDN'T BE POPULAR.

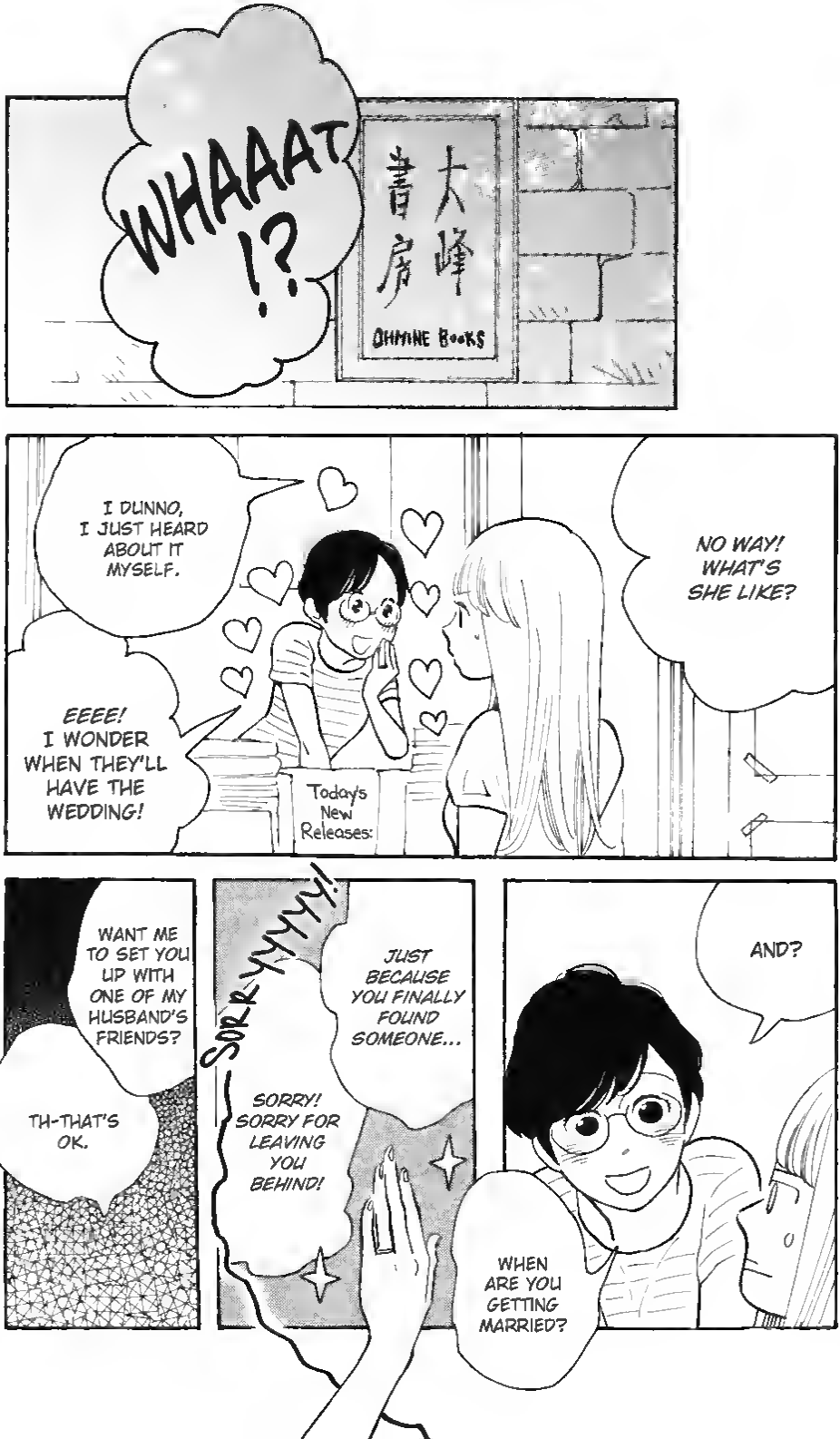
SHUN, I'M LETTING MYSELF IN!
ding dong
clack
clack

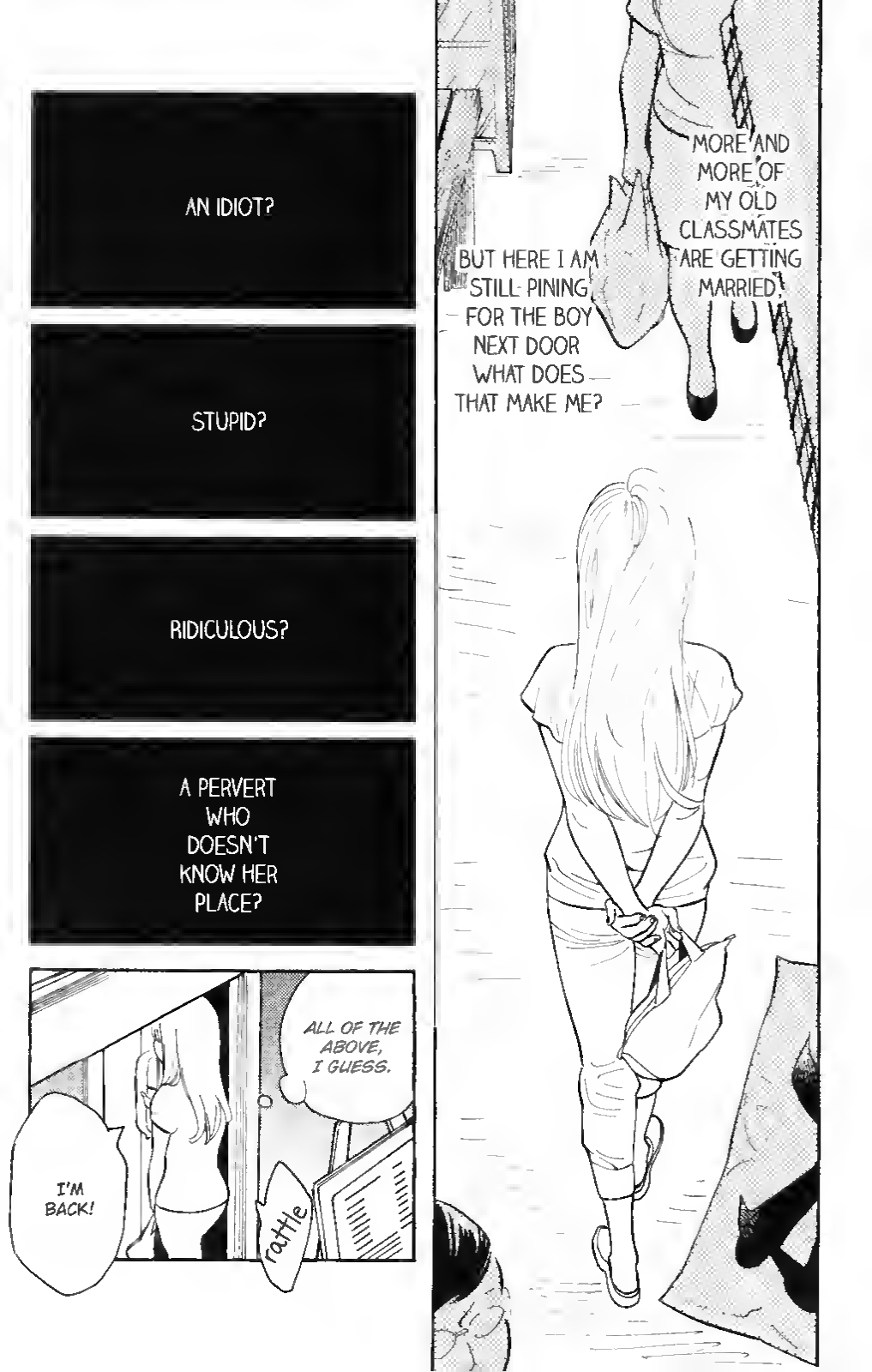

AND THEN AT 26 GOT MARRIED AND PREPARED TO TAKE OVER HIS FAMILY'S TEMPLE

I BROUGHT YOU SOME JELLO AND VITAMIN DRINKS.
I'LL JUST PUT THEM IN THE FRIDGE.
TA!
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M FEELING BETTER?
I BORROWED THE KEY.
ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?
HUH? HOW'D YOU GET IN?
I'M GOING TO MAKE SOME RICE GRUEL IF YOU'RE UP TO EATING.
THANKS.
I'M SINGLE, TOO, AFTER ALL.


WELL, AT LEAST OUR PARENTS
ARE ALL STILL LIVING.
SO I KNOW HOW TOUGH IT IS WHEN YOU GET SICK.
HUH!?
I'M JUST MAKING SMALL TALK!
A PROPOSAL?
WHAT'S THAT?
ANYWAY... GUYS WHO SAY THAT ALWAYS END UP GETTING MARRIED FIRST...
THE THING IS...
YOU REALLY THINK I'D SAY THAT, DUMMY?
COME ON.
Tch!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET MARRIED IF WE'RE BOTH STILL SINGLE IN 10 YEARS.

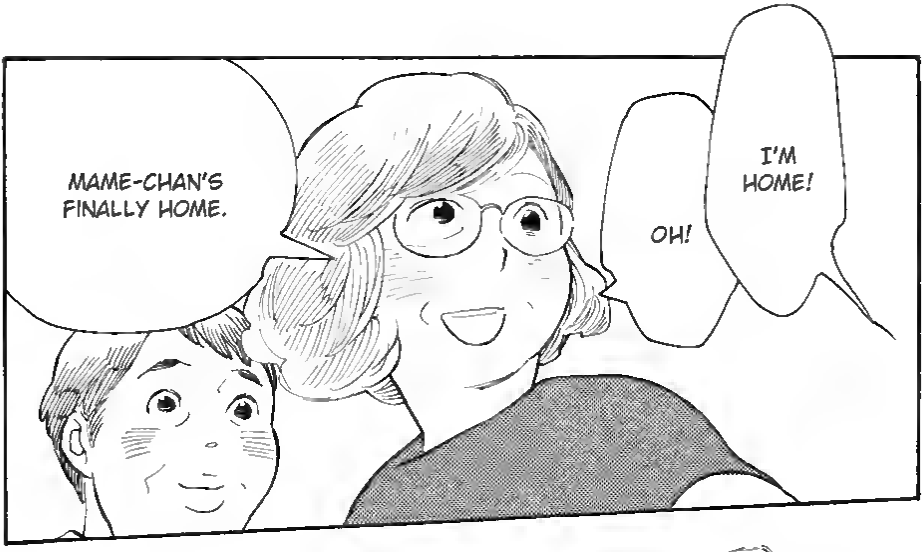

WITH HARU-SAN'S STUFF AND EVERYTHING, I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE YET, THOUGH.
WHAT!?
I ACTUALLY MIGHT BE GETTING MARRIED.
SIGH...
SMILEY
THIS WAS NEVER LIKE YOUR PATHETIC CRUSH.
HEY, DON'T PUT US TOGETHER.
ONE OF MY LAST SINGLE FRIENDS...
...THANKS.
CONGRATS, THOUGH.

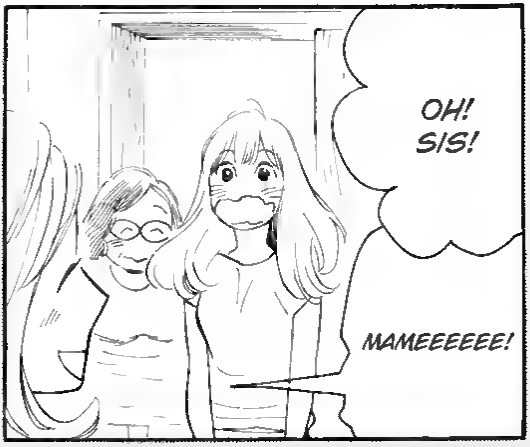

WHAAAT!?
大峰書房
OHMINE BOOKS
I DUNNO, I JUST HEARD ABOUT IT MYSELF.
NO WAY! WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
EEEE! I WONDER WHEN THEY'LL HAVE THE WEDDING!
Today's New Releases:
WANT ME TO SET YOU UP WITH ONE OF MY HUSBAND'S FRIENDS?
TH-THAT'S OK.
SORRYYYYY!
JUST BECAUSE YOU FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE...
SORRY! SORRY FOR LEAVING YOU BEHIND!
AND?
WHEN ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?

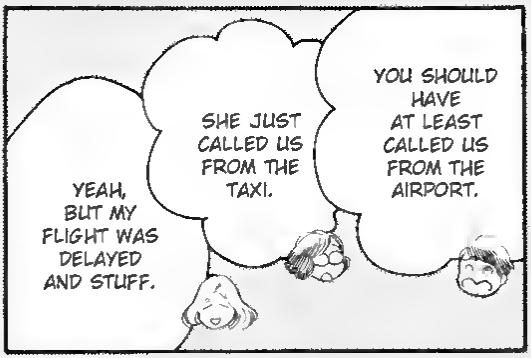

AN IDIOT?
STUPID?
RIDICULOUS?
A PERVERT WHO DOESN'T KNOW HER PLACE?
I'M BACK!
rattle
ALL OF THE ABOVE, I GUESS.
BUT HERE I AM STILL PINING FOR THE BOY NEXT DOOR WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME?
MORE AND MORE OF MY OLD CLASSMATES ARE GETTING MARRIED.

HE ATE SOME RICE GRUEL AND JELLO, SO I'M SURE HE'LL BE FEELING BETTER SOON.
HOW WAS SHUN?
OH, THANKS.
BETTER LET SHUN TELL HIM ABOUT THE WEDDING HIMSELF.
Got it!
Toast and ice coffee for Table 7!!
WHOOPS.

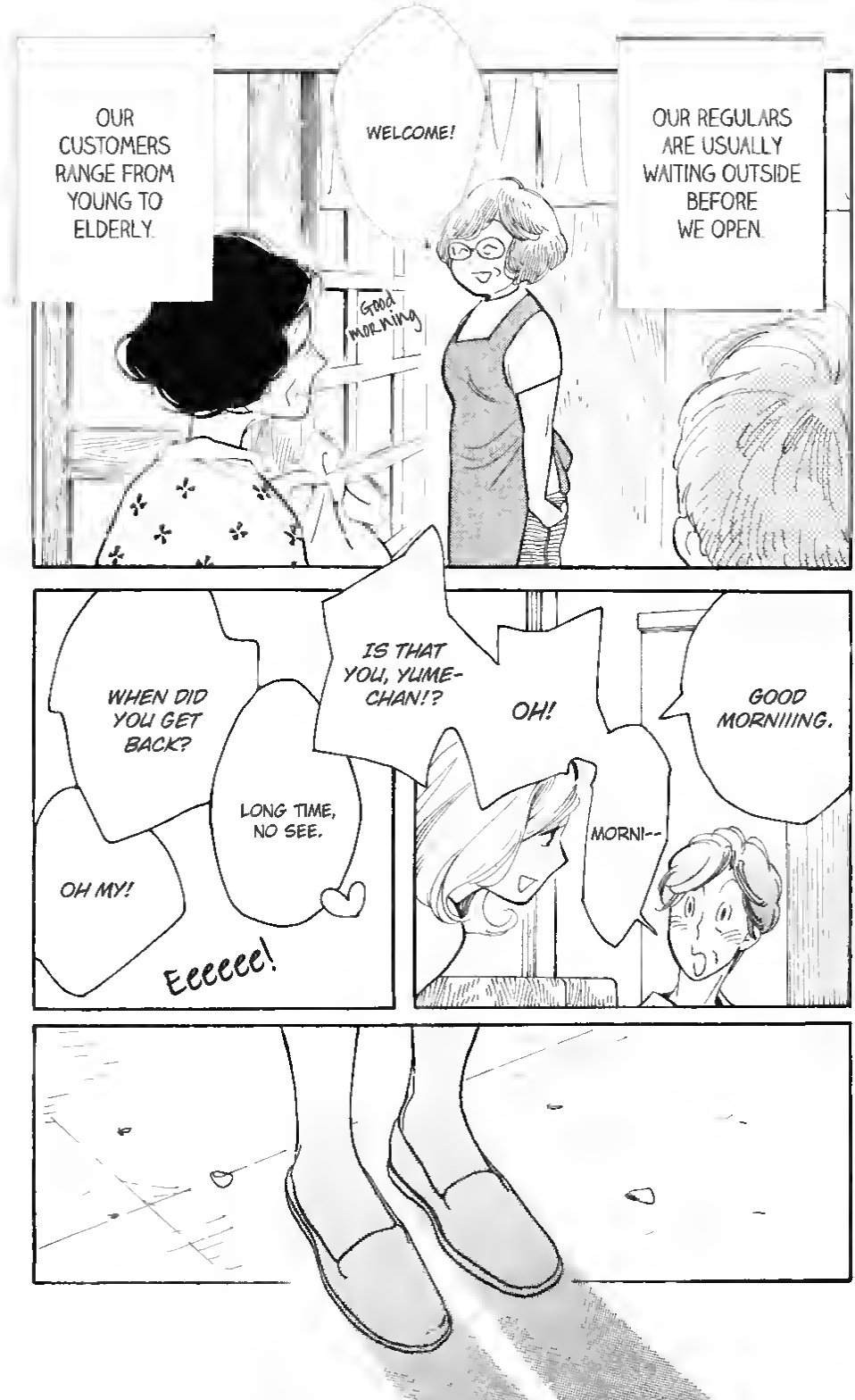
YES, I DO.
I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT...
THANKS FOR TODAY.
CLOSED.
OH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
I COULD LISTEN TO HIM SAY
"YES, I DO" A HUNDRED TIMES.
♥ ♥ ♥
Sright
See ya
JEEZ!
Oh
WELL, THANK YOU, THEN.


MAME-CHAN'S FINALLY HOME.
OH!
I'M HOME!


OH! SIS!
MAMEEEEEEE!


YEAH, BUT MY FLIGHT WAS DELAYED AND STUFF.
SHE JUST CALLED US FROM THE TAXI.
YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST CALLED US FROM THE AIRPORT.

AND MY SISTER
YOU SURE HAVE GROWN UP, MAME-CHAN.
SUZUME-YU BATH IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS
EVERY OTHER DAY WE'RE OPEN FROM 6:00 AM TO 8:00 PM
HAS GOTTEN EVEN PRETTIER...
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle


OUR CUSTOMERS RANGE FROM YOUNG TO ELDERLY.
WELCOME!
Good morning
OUR REGULARS ARE USUALLY WAITING OUTSIDE BEFORE WE OPEN.
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
LONG TIME, NO SEE.
OH MY!
Eeeeee!
IS THAT YOU, YUME-CHAN!?
OH!
GOOD MORNIIING.
MORNI--

Sign: Asai Building #2
THE SHOP'S CLOSED TODAY.
SHOULD I LET HIM KNOW MY SISTER'S BACK ...?
TBH ...
I...
I DON'T WANT TO TELL HIM...
LIKE, EVER...
AAH, MY HEART IS SO, SO UGLY.
THIS IS WHY SOU-CHAN DOESN'T LOVE ME.
OH, MAME, MORNING.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE OUT EARLY, SOU-CHAN.
YEAH, THOUGHT I'D GO FOR A BATH SINCE I'VE GOT THE DAY OFF.
Yu's still sleeping
WHAT'S UP WITH HER...?
What's the rush..?

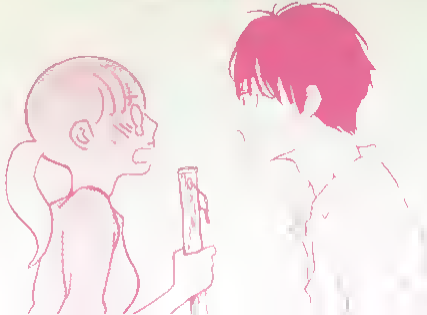
DON'T MIND MY CLEANING.
GOOD MORNING.
Wow, it's been ages!
Eeee!
Oh, morning
SOU-CHAN'S COMING!
HE'LL SEE MY SISTER ANY MINUTE NOW.
HE'LL SEE HER, AND... WHEN HE SEES HER..
GOOD
WELCOME.
MO--
whirrrr

HUH? SOU-CHAN?
after
HIS WASH BASIN!!
HE DROPPED...

こいいじ

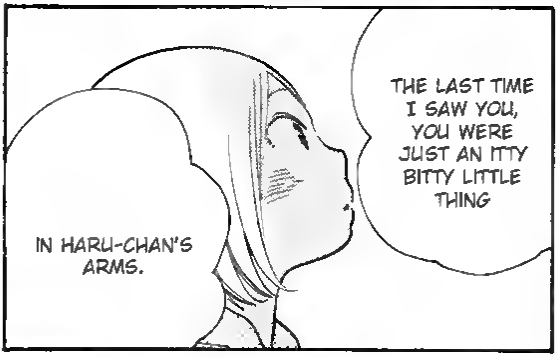
3

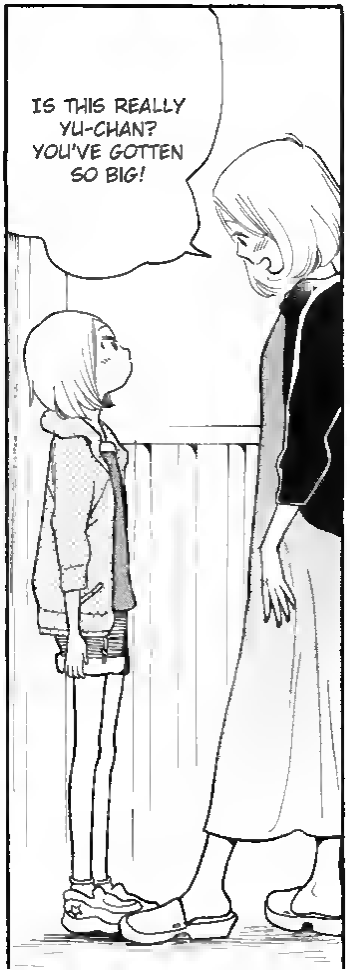
By Shinjiro Tanaka



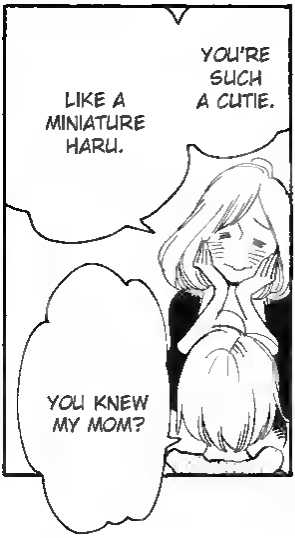
SOU-CHAN, WAS MY SISTER YOUR FIRST LOVE?
CH 3 LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND
-after-
ARE YOU OKAY?
I, I'M FINE.
NOT THAT I CAN SEE HIM, BUT...
HE'S SO SHAKEN
I... WANT TO ASK THAT, BUT I CAN'T. AND WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO ANYWAY?

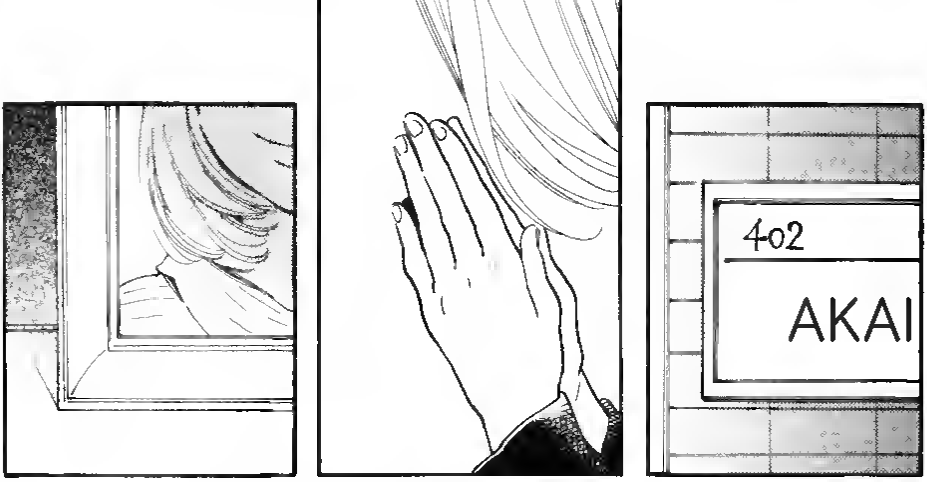
WOWWWWW!
OHHH!
WOW!

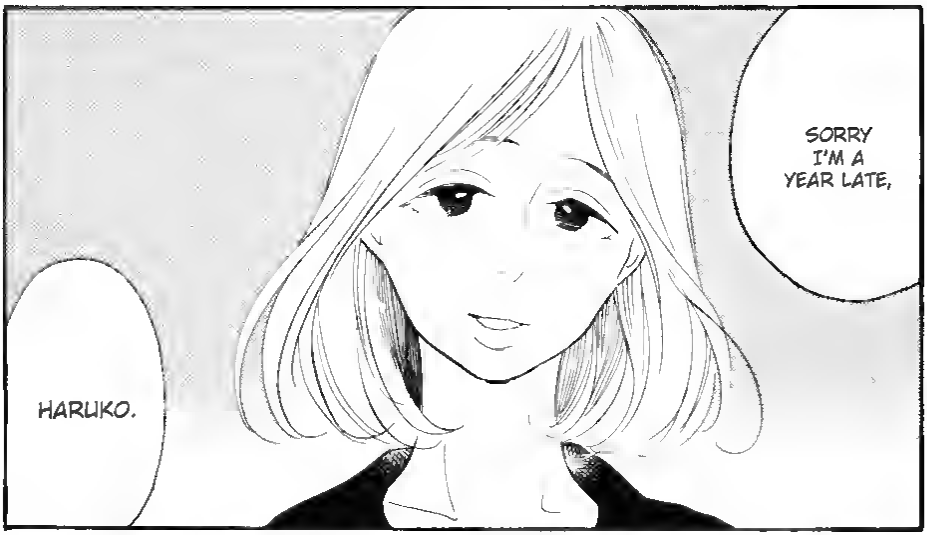

IN HARU-CHAN'S ARMS.
THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE JUST AN ITTY BITTY LITTLE THING

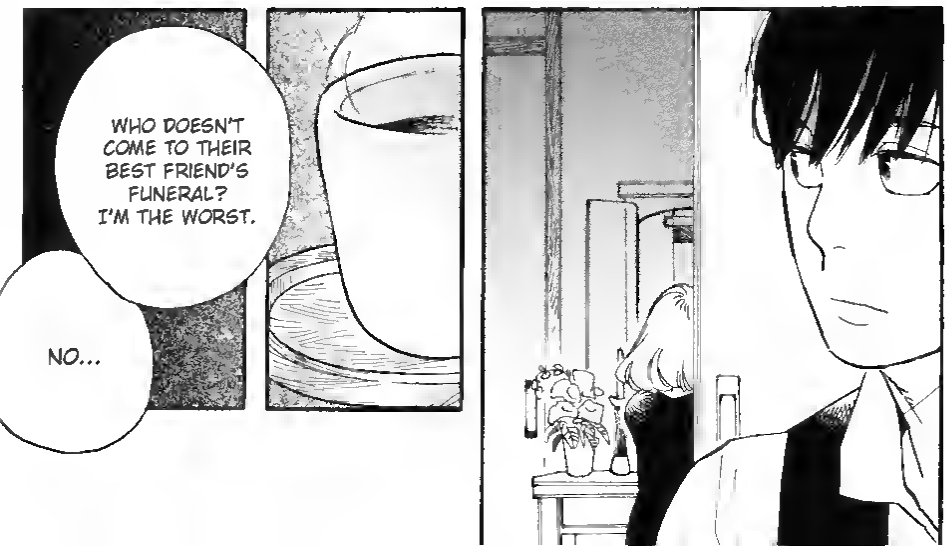

IS THIS REALLY YU-CHAN? YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG!

I DIDN'T JUST KNOW HER, WE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
WHAT?


LIKE A MINIATURE HARU.
YOU'RE SUCH A CUTIE.
YOU KNEW MY MOM?


402
AKAI


SORRY I'M A YEAR LATE,
HARUKO.

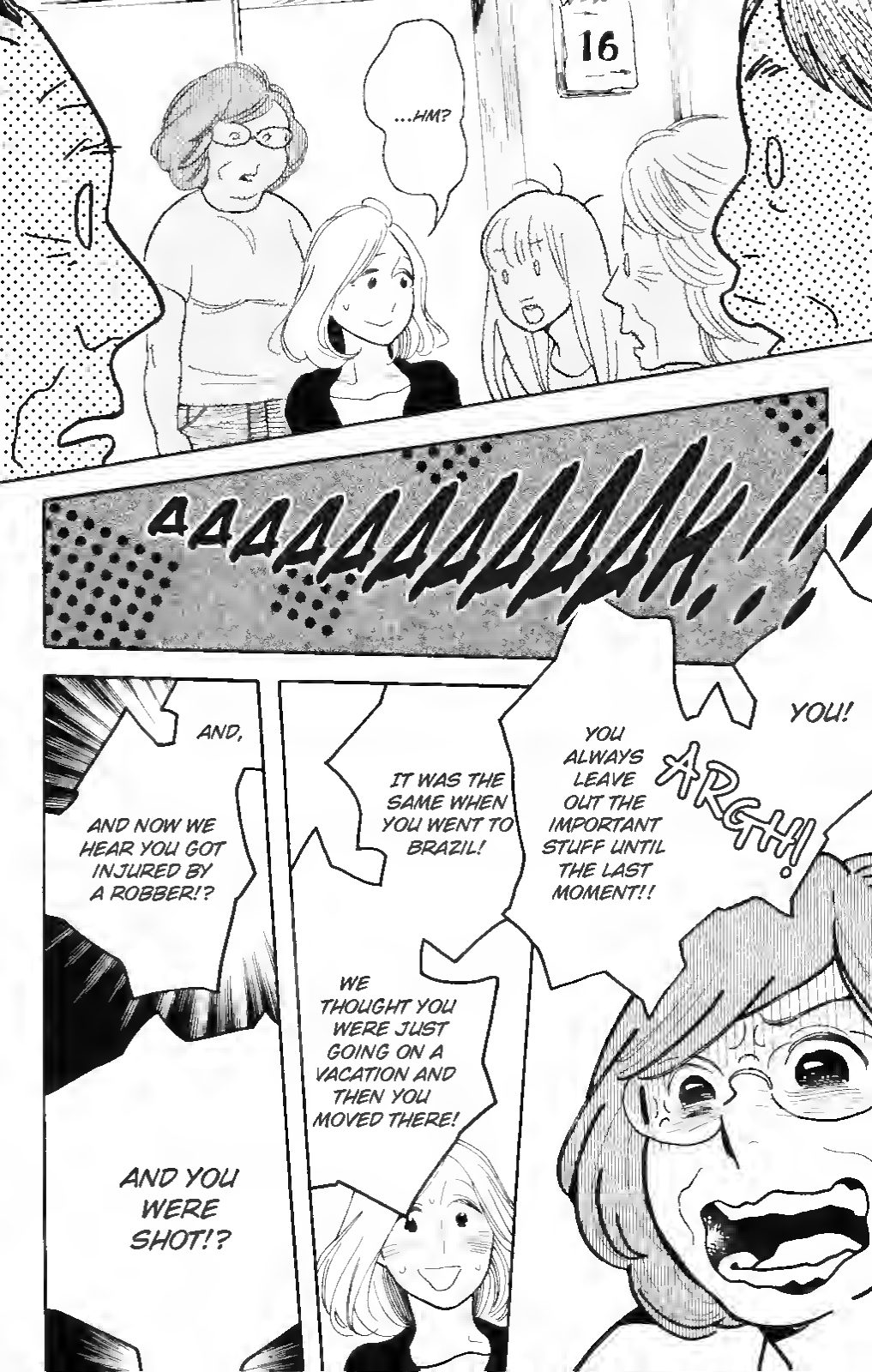

WHO DOESN'T COME TO THEIR BEST FRIEND'S FUNERAL? I'M THE WORST.
NO...

I WANTED TO SAY A PROPER GOODBYE.
IT WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN PAINFUL FOR YOU IF YOU'D COME.
WELL, MAYBE SO, BUT...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SAY IT YET.
Bath
day – Sunday
M – 8:00 PM

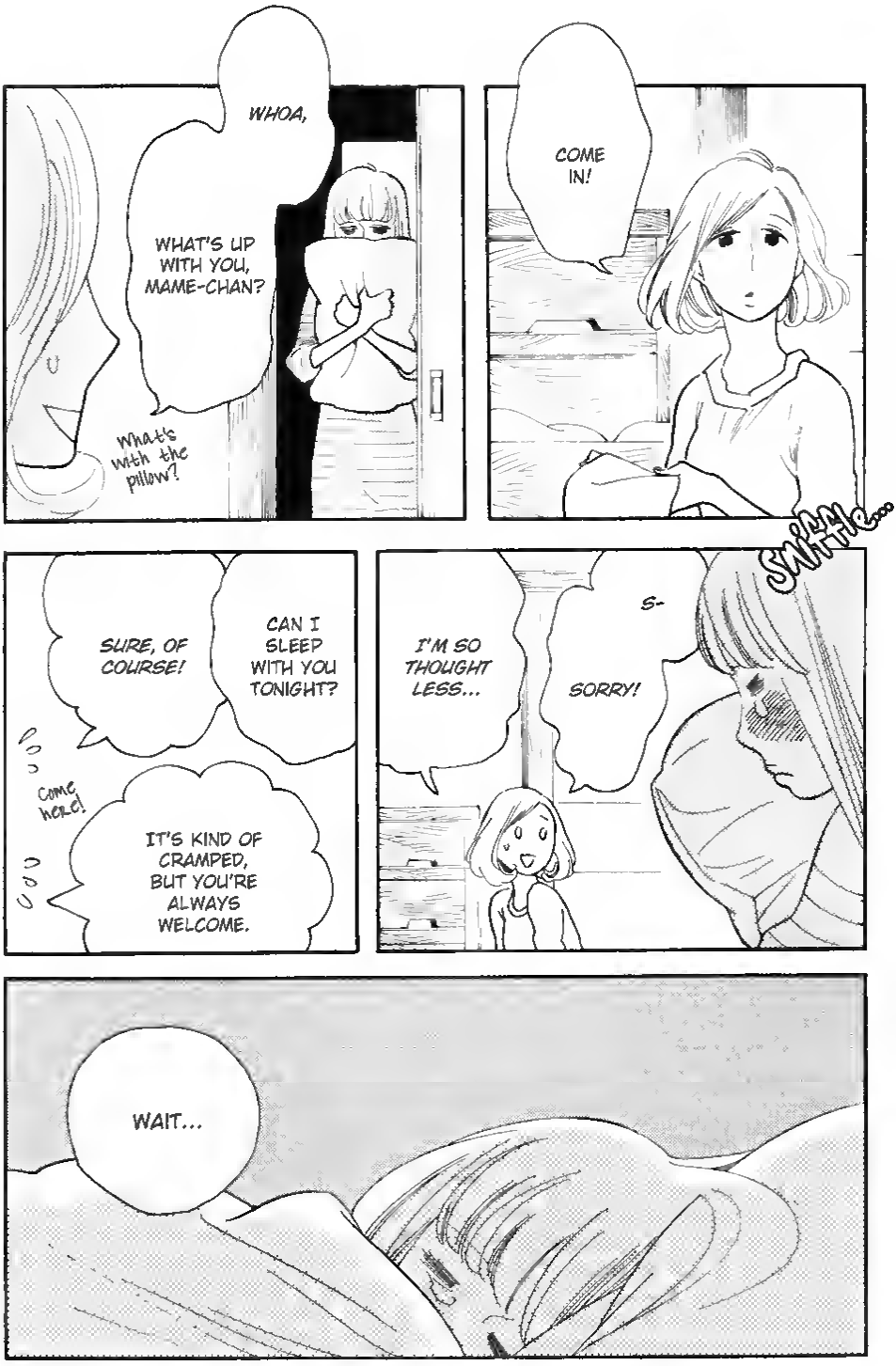
I GUESS YOU WERE TOO BUSY FLITTING ABOUT THE AMAZON.
WE COULDN'T GET AHOLD OF YOU WHEN IT HAPPENED.
WHAT!? WHAT FOR!? WERE YOU SICK!?
OH, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT I WAS ALSO IN THE HOSPITAL.
WELL, THERE WAS THAT, TOO.
MMM...
IN THE SHOULDER.
I GOT SHOT.

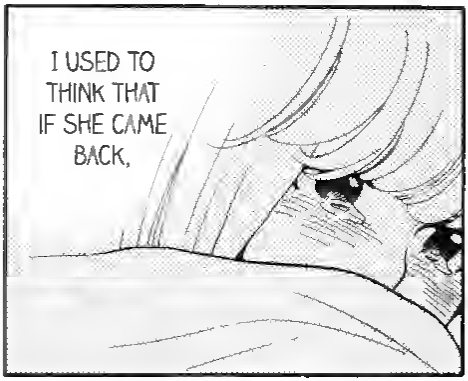
BUT I'D FORGOTTEN HER PRESENT AT HOME.
I WAS AT A PARTY AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
A BABY SHOWER.
WHEN I WENT BACK FOR IT, I FOUND A BURGLAR THERE.
I HAD A FRIEND WITH ME,
SO SHE WAS ABLE TO GET ME TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY AND IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS.

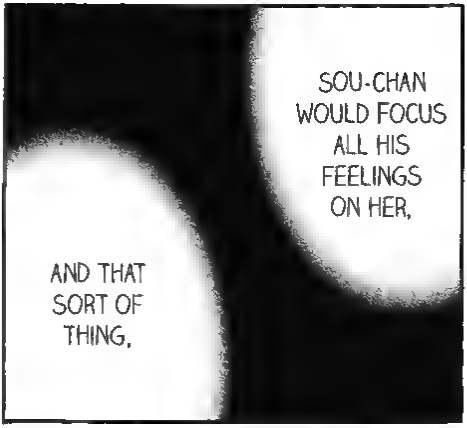
BUT A BURGLAR BROKE IN TO THEIR PLACE, TOO.
SO I STAYED WITH SOME OTHER FRIENDS OF MINE,
BUT I WAS A LITTLE SCARED AFTER I GOT RELEASED,
HER HUSBAND MANAGED TO TACKLE HIM AND TAKE HIM DOWN, AND I CALLED THE POLICE AND IT ENDED UP BEING NOTHING SERIOUS,
THIS TIME HE DIDN'T HAVE A GUN,
BUT HE HELD A KNIFE TO MY FRIEND'S THROAT.
BUT IT WAS ALL A BIT TOO MUCH
AND I WAS TIRED BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY,
SO I DECIDED TO COME BACK HOME FOR A WHILE.

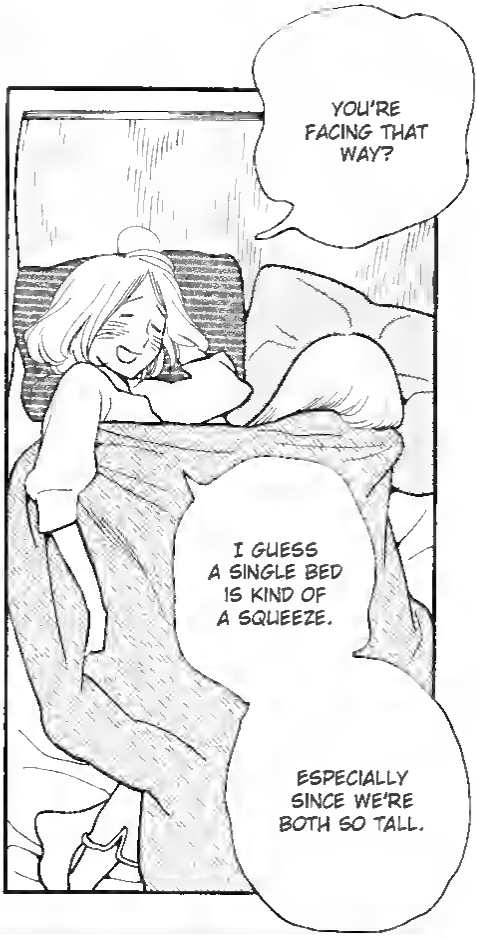

16
...HM?
AAAAAAAAAAH!!!
AND,
AND NOW WE HEAR YOU GOT INJURED BY A ROBBER!?
AND YOU WERE SHOT!?
IT WAS THE SAME WHEN YOU WENT TO BRAZIL!
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST GOING ON A VACATION AND THEN YOU MOVED THERE!
YOU ALWAYS LEAVE OUT THE IMPORTANT STUFF UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT!!
ARGH!
YOU!

IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS, SO I DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU FOR NOTHING.
BUT,
BUT,
WHY AM I JUST HEARING ABOUT THIS NOW!!?
YOU STUPID GIRL! IT'S NOT NOTHING!
YOU NEVER THINK THINGS THROUGH!!
knock
knock

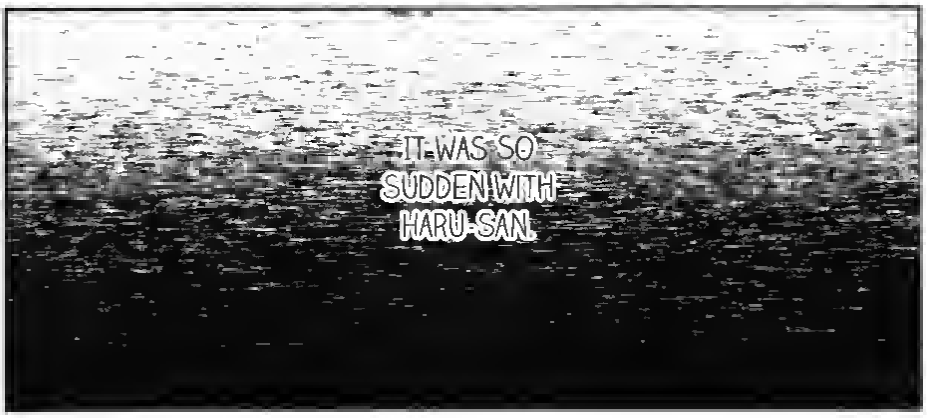

WHOA,
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, MAME-CHAN?
What's with the pillow?
COME IN!
Sniff...
S-
SORRY!
I'M SO THOUGHT LESS...
CAN I SLEEP WITH YOU TONIGHT?
SURE, OF COURSE!
Come here!
IT'S KIND OF CRAMPED, BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME.
WAIT...


I USED TO THINK THAT IF SHE CAME BACK,

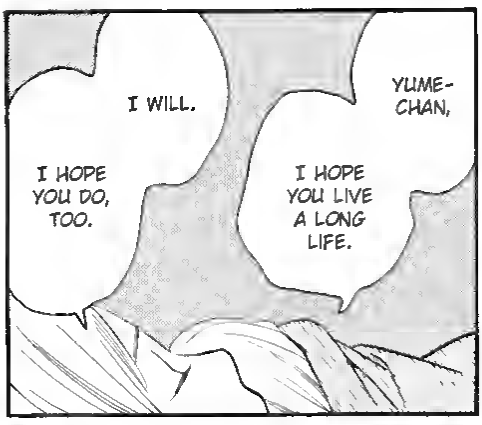

SOU-CHAN WOULD FOCUS ALL HIS FEELINGS ON HER,
AND THAT SORT OF THING,


YOU'RE FACING THAT WAY?
I GUESS A SINGLE BED IS KIND OF A SQUEEZE.
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE BOTH SO TALL.

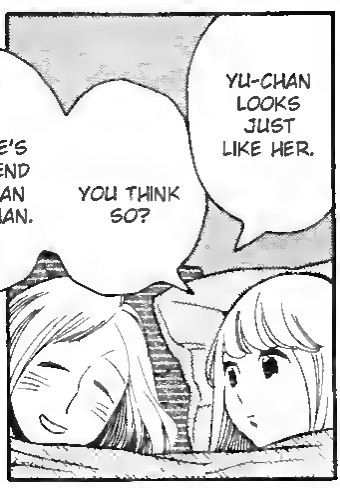
BUT I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT SHE MIGHT SUDDENLY BE GONE FOREVER ONE DAY.


IT WAS SO SUDDEN WITH HARU-SAN.

AFTER ALL, I DID WISH FOR YOU TO BE A HEALTHY CHILD.

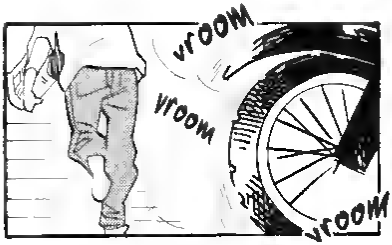

YUME-CHAN, I HOPE YOU LIVE A LONG LIFE.
I WILL. I HOPE YOU DO, TOO.

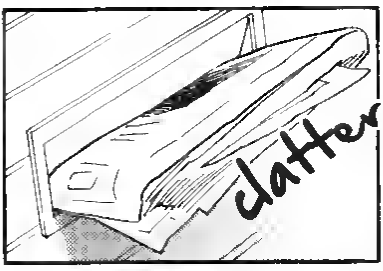
AHAHA, SHE IS, SHE IS.
I THINK SHE'S A GOOD BLEND OF HARU-SAN AND SOU-CHAN.


YOU THINK SO?
YU-CHAN LOOKS JUST LIKE HER.

IT'S...SO SAD ABOUT HARU.

IT TOOK MY BREATH AWAY...
AND THAT'S WHAT YU-CHAN REMINDS ME OF.
HARU COULD SOMETIMES LOOK VERY CHILDISH,


vroom
vroom
vroom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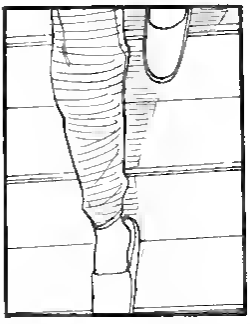
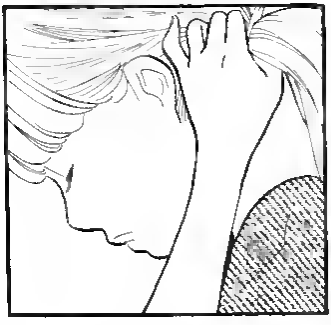
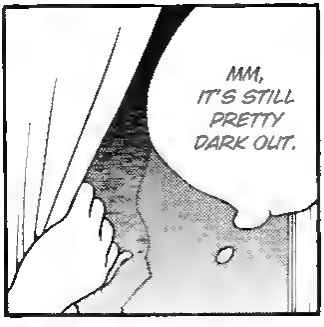
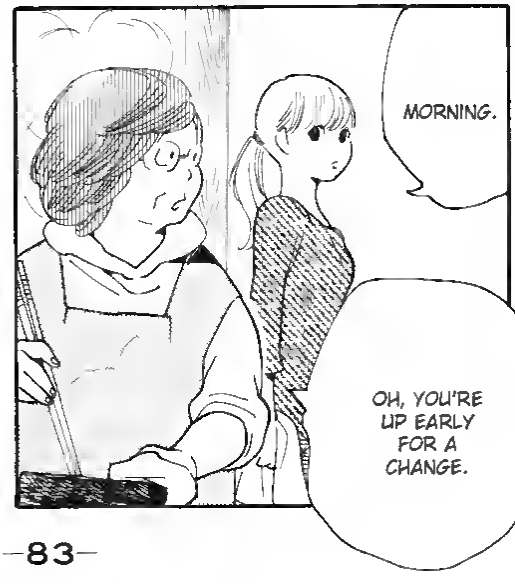
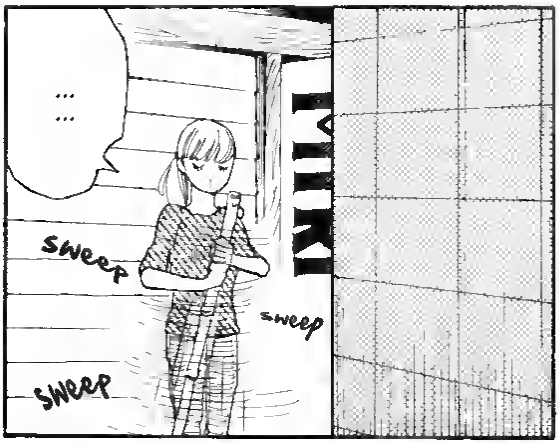




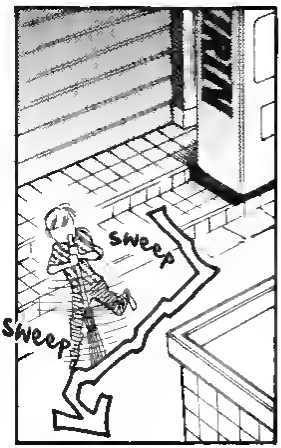

MM, IT'S STILL PRETTY DARK OUT.

IS YUME STILL SLEEPING?
YEAH.
I..


MORNING.
OH, YOU'RE UP EARLY FOR A CHANGE.


...
...
sweep
sweep
sweep

sweep
sweep
sweep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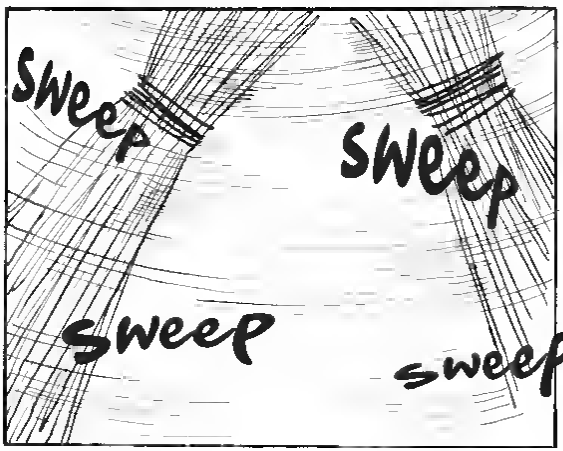

sweep
sweep
sweep
sweep

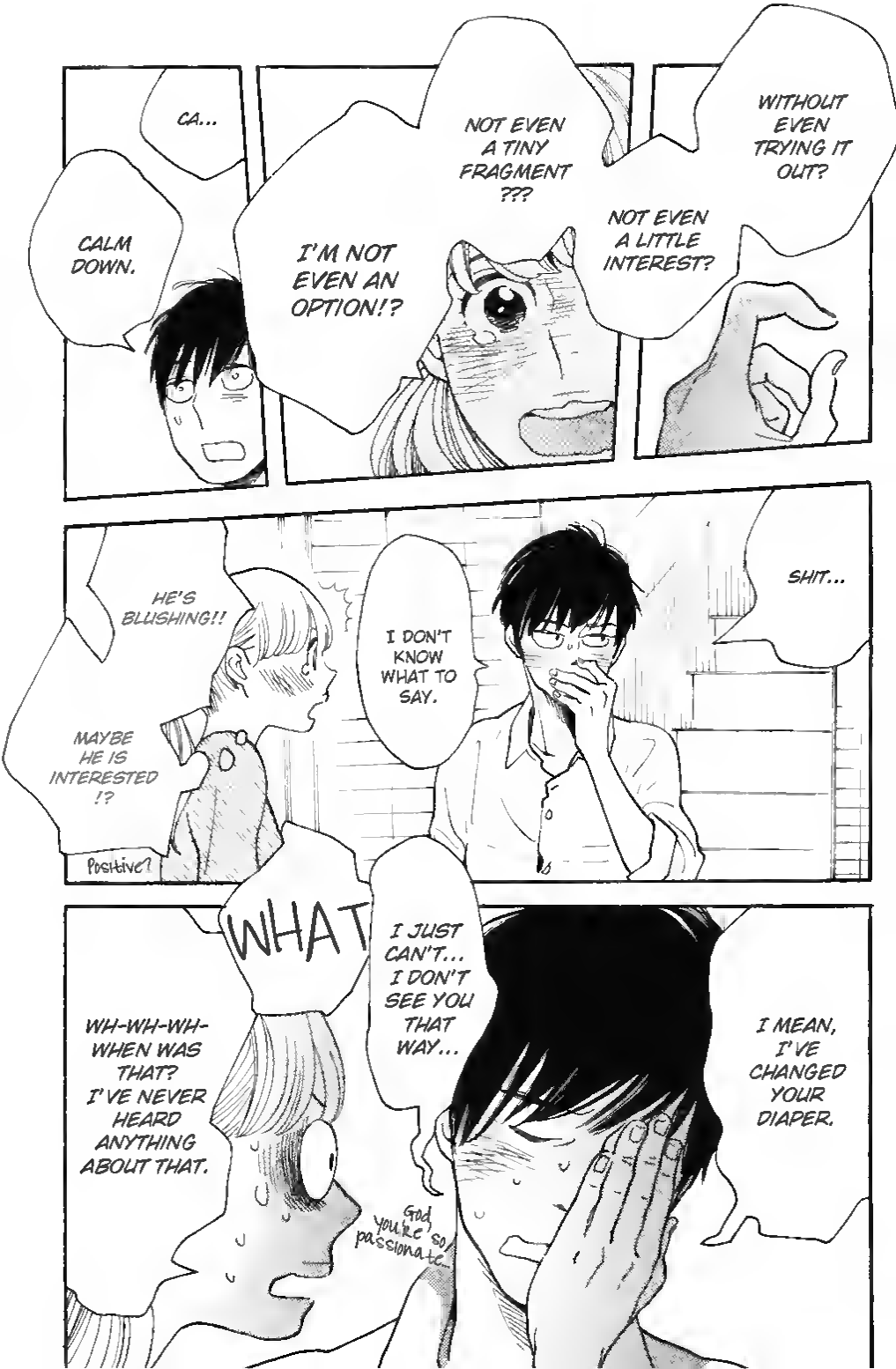
WANT
TO LIVE
EVERY DAY
TO THE
FULLEST.

SOU-CHAN SHOULD BE UP AND ABOUT SOON.
MORNING!
MORNING. WHAT'RE YOU DOING SWEEPING OUTSIDE MY SHOP?
OH!
I WAS JUST REALLY ON A ROLL AND NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS HERE.
Stare...
UH...

ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NO OTHER GUYS YOU LIKE?
HUH!?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM ALL OF A SUDDEN?
MAME...
WH-WHAT IS IT?
APPARENTLY SHUN'S GETTING MARRIED.
OH!
OR IF NOT HIM, THEN KYOICHI.
UH... WELL...
I JUST ALWAYS THOUGHT THE TWO OF YOU WOULD GET MARRIED ONE DAY.
HUH!? WHY!?
OH, SO YOU KNEW, DID YOU?
YEAH.
HE TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY.

I mean,
DOESN'T IT GET OLD PINING FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T RETURN YOUR FEELINGS?
ch
op
IN THE BACK OF MY MIND I ALWAYS THOUGHT
"IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ME".
BUT I KNOW
I JUST
CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT THAT I'M KEEPING YOU FROM MEETING OTHER PEOPLE.
IT'S PROBABLY A KINDNESS TO TELL YOU TO JUST GIVE UP ON ME.
THIS SORT OF THING ISN'T LOGICAL.

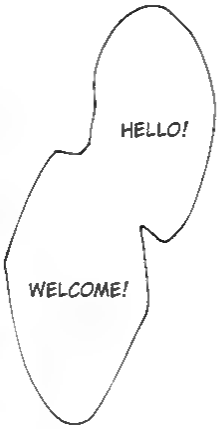
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T FEEL FRUSTRATED WITH EVERYONE ELSE PAIRING OFF.
OF COURSE I FEEL FRUSTRATED.
BUT I DON'T JUST WANT TO GET MARRIED FOR THE SAKE OF GETTING MARRIED.
AND ANYWAY...
ARE YOU REALLY THAT UNINTERESTED IN ME!?
LIKE ZERO PERCENT!?

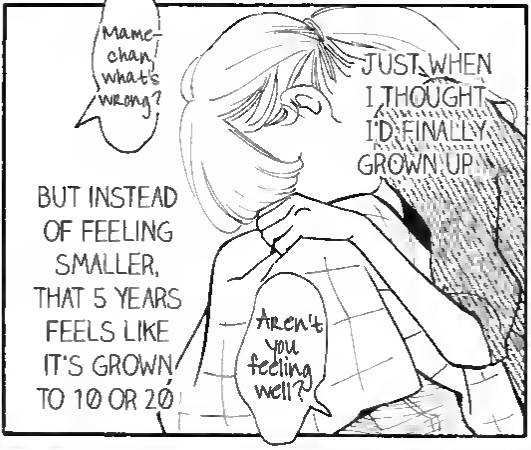

CA...
CALM DOWN.
I'M NOT EVEN AN OPTION!?
NOT EVEN A TINY FRAGMENT ???
NOT EVEN A LITTLE INTEREST?
WITHOUT EVEN TRYING IT OUT?
HE'S BLUSHING!!
MAYBE HE IS INTERESTED !?
Positive?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
SHIT...
WHAT
WH-WH-WH-WHEN WAS THAT? I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
I JUST CAN'T... I DON'T SEE YOU THAT WAY...
God you're so passionate.
I MEAN, I'VE CHANGED YOUR DIAPER.

Showa '58
1983
EXCUSE ME!
ANYONE THERE?
OH!
I'M COMING!
HOLD ON!
Mom's not here
SORRY, YUME-CHAN!
CAN YOU CHANGE MAME'S DIAPER?
OKAAAY.
WANNA GIVE IT A TRY, SOUTA?
HUH!?
WHAT?
ME!?

Yume-chan! Let's play!
Coming!
WAAAH!
Uh...
Uh...
HE COULDN'T STAND UP TO HER...
...OK.
1ST GRADE
Hehehe...
MY SISTER IS 3 YEARS OLDER THAN SOU-CHAN.
4TH GRADE
I'D BEEN CRYING AND CRYING,
BUT FINALLY

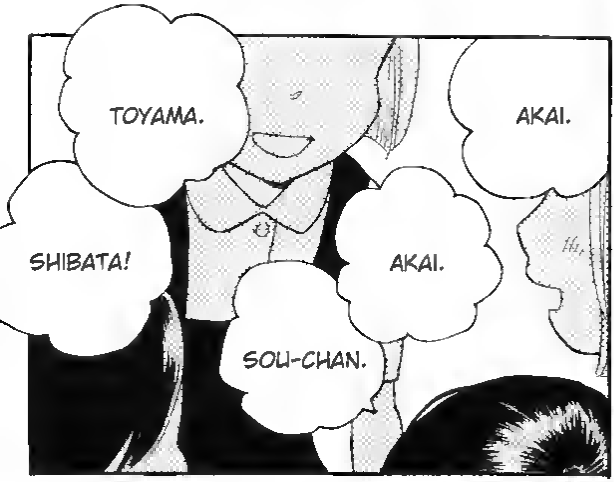
What?
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING TO BLAME, BLAME OUR ENVIRONMENT.
THAT AWAKENED SOME SORT OF PATERNAL INSTINCT IN ME.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I BEEN REJECTED NOW?
I LOVE HIM...
BUT HE'S NICE.
AND HE'S KIND OF RUDE...
HE KNOWS HOW TO GET ME RIGHT WHERE IT HURTS
TIMES LIKE THIS, I REALIZE HOW MUCH HE AND SHUN HAVE IN COMMON.


HELLO!
WELCOME!


Mame-chan, what's wrong?
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY GROWN UP
BUT INSTEAD OF FEELING SMALLER, THAT 5 YEARS FEELS LIKE IT'S GROWN TO 10 OR 20
Aren't you feeling well?

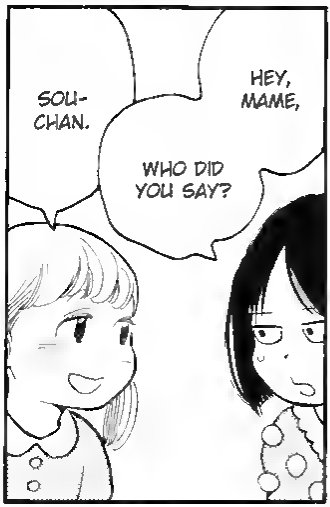
TO SOU-CHAN, I'M JUST
A LITTLE SISTER OR EVEN A DAUGHTER.
THAT'S PROBABLY NOT SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CONSIDER THIS AN EXTENDED BROTHER COMPLEX
AND START SERIOUSLY LOOKING TO GET MARRIED...


TOYAMA.
AKAI.
SHIBATA!
AKAI.
SOU-CHAN.

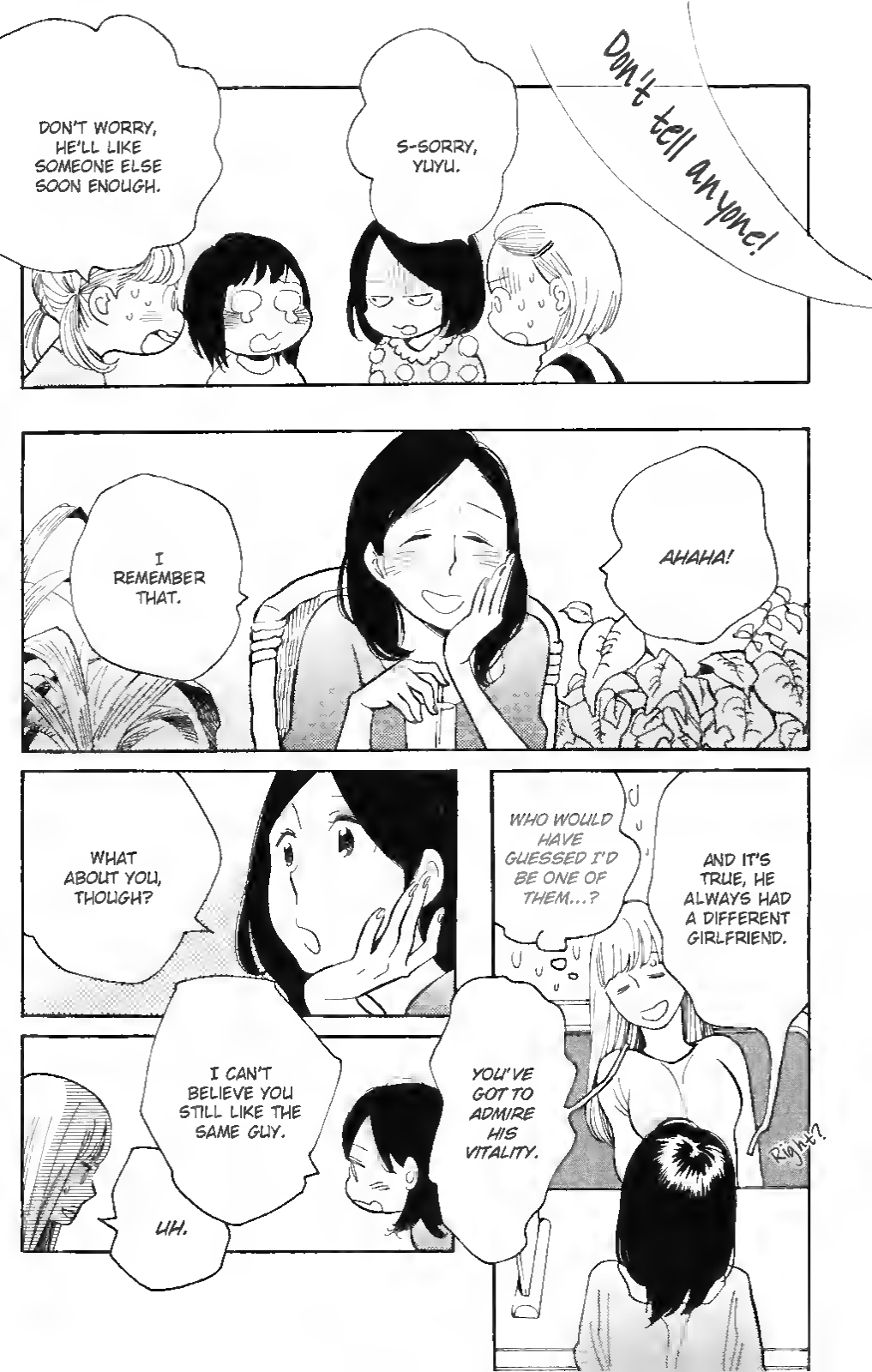
YOU, TOO, ERIRIN? NO WAY!
WHAT!?
MICCHAN, YOU LIKE AKAI, TOO?
SHOULD WE DO ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS TO DECIDE?
MM...

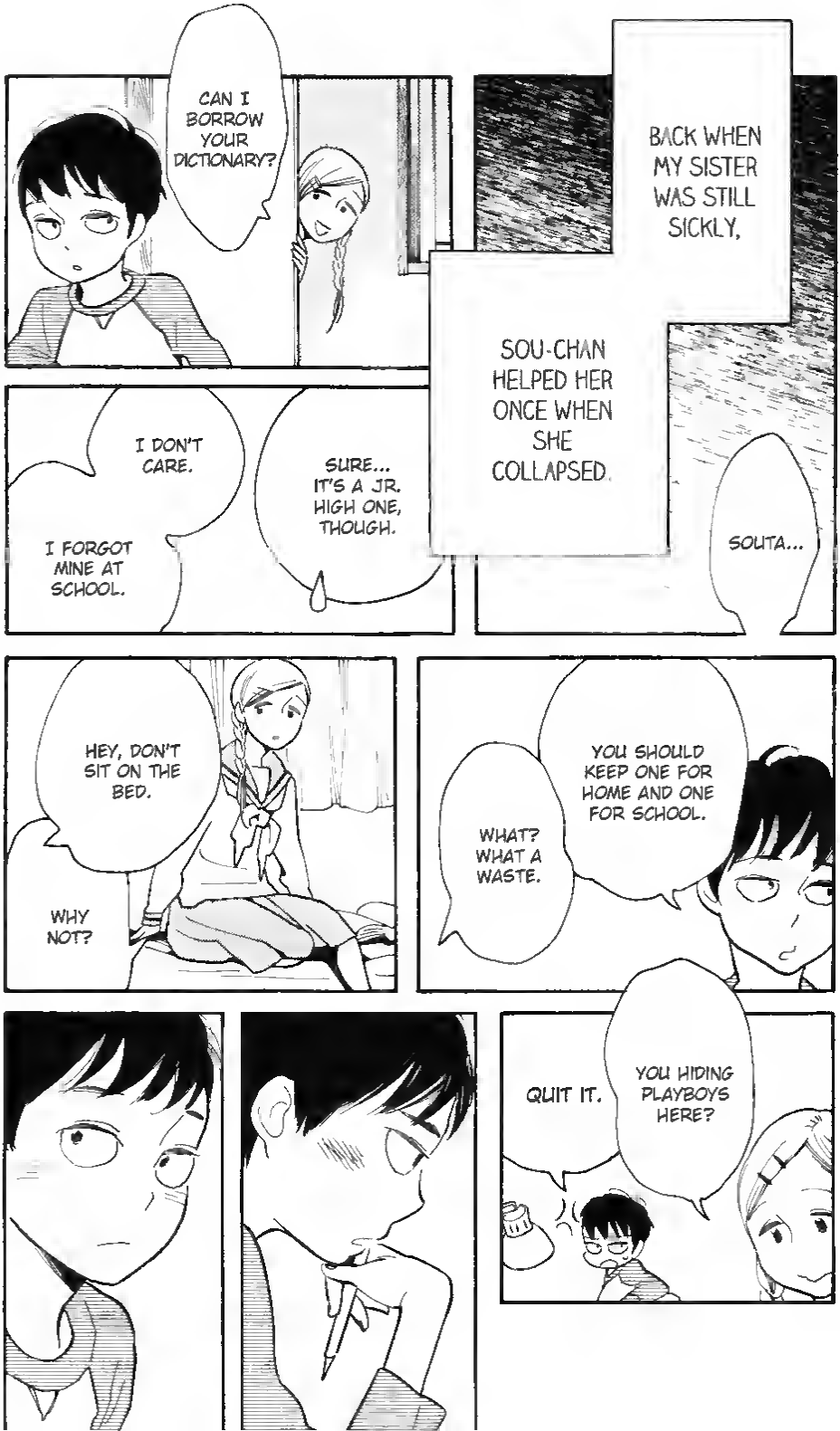
SHUN'S BIG BROTHER.
AKAI HAS A BROTHER?
5TH GRADE? 6TH?


SOU-CHAN.
HEY, MAME,
WHO DID YOU SAY?

ON THE COUNT OF TWO.
OK.
ONE, TWO...!

WHO'S CUTER, AKAI OR HIS BROTHER?
PROBABLY HIS BROTHER, RIGHT? HE'S GROWN UP, AFTER ALL.
WHAAAT?
WHOA! HE'S PRACTICALLY GROWN UP!
MAME, YOU'RE SO COOL!
Nah~
JUNIOR HIGH, 3RD YEAR.
HE'LL BE IN HIGH SCHOOL SOON.
eeeek-!
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
ACK!
TOYAMA!!
SURE.
KAWAMURA IN CLASS 3!
Honest!
HUH?
DO YOU LIKE ANYONE, KYOICHI?
NO WAY, I CAN'T!
TELL HIM, TELL HIM.
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, YUYU.
GO ON, TELL HIM.
?


DON'T WORRY, HE'LL LIKE SOMEONE ELSE SOON ENOUGH.
S-SORRY, YUYU.
Don't tell anyone!
I REMEMBER THAT.
AHAHA!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, THOUGH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STILL LIKE THE SAME GUY.
UH.
YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIRE HIS VITALITY.
WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED I'D BE ONE OF THEM...?
AND IT'S TRUE, HE ALWAYS HAD A DIFFERENT GIRLFRIEND.
Right?

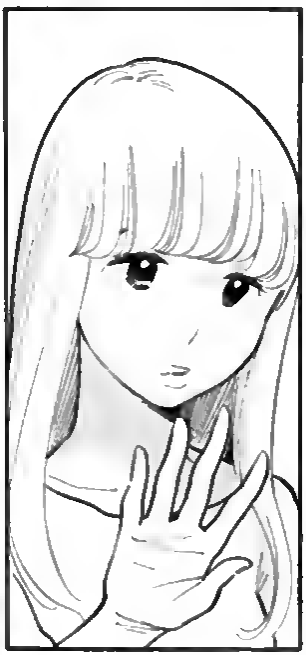

CAN I BORROW YOUR DICTIONARY?
I DON'T CARE.
I FORGOT MINE AT SCHOOL.
SURE... IT'S A JR. HIGH ONE, THOUGH.
BACK WHEN MY SISTER WAS STILL SICKLY,
SOU-CHAN HELPED HER ONCE WHEN SHE COLLAPSED.
SOUTA...
HEY, DON'T SIT ON THE BED.
WHY NOT?
YOU SHOULD KEEP ONE FOR HOME AND ONE FOR SCHOOL.
WHAT? WHAT A WASTE.
QUIT IT.
YOU HIDING PLAYBOYS HERE?

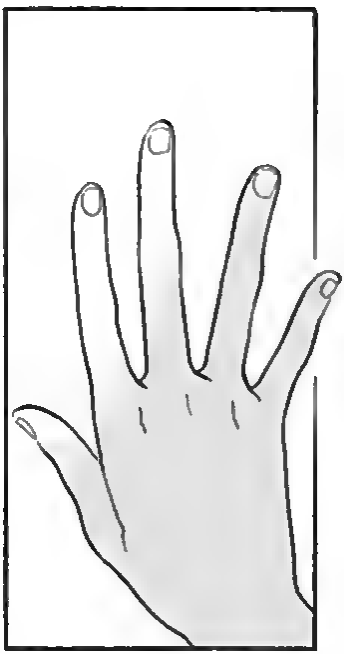
YUME...
OH, SOUTA.
What's the matter?
AUNTIE!!
YUME-CHAN, SHE'S...!
HE CALLED THE AMBULANCE FOR US
AND HIS VOICE TREMBLED
BUT HE WAS SO SHAKEN

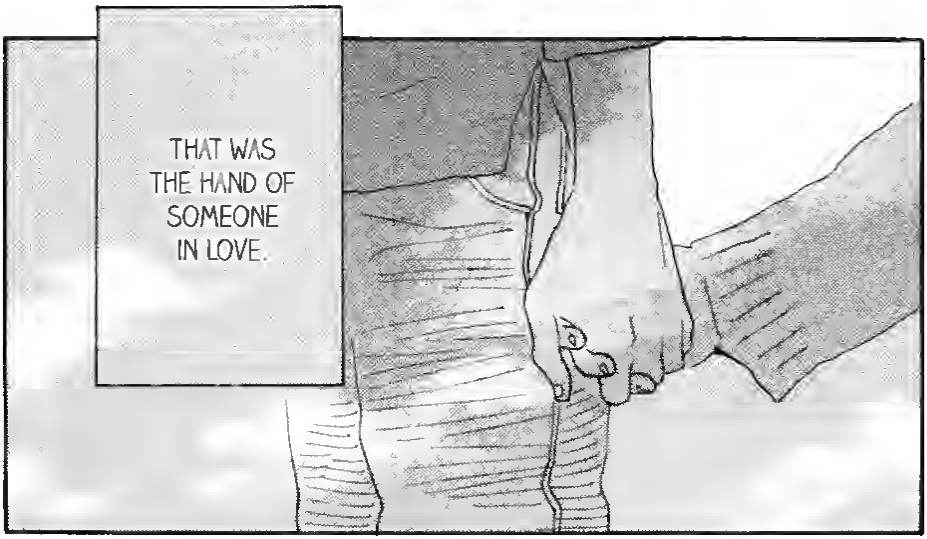
AS WE WATCHED THE AMBULANCE GO,

HIS HAND WAS SO COLD

WHENEVER I REMEMBER THAT DAY, MY FEELINGS FOR HIM ALWAYS RETURN IN FULL FORCE.





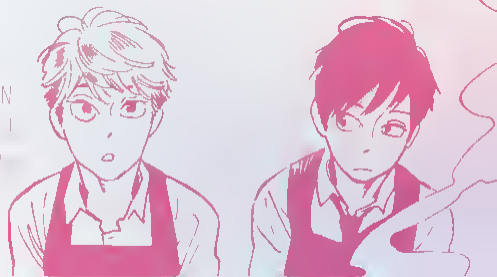

THAT WAS THE HAND OF SOMEONE IN LOVE.

I PROBABLY FELL FOR HIM BECAUSE HE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

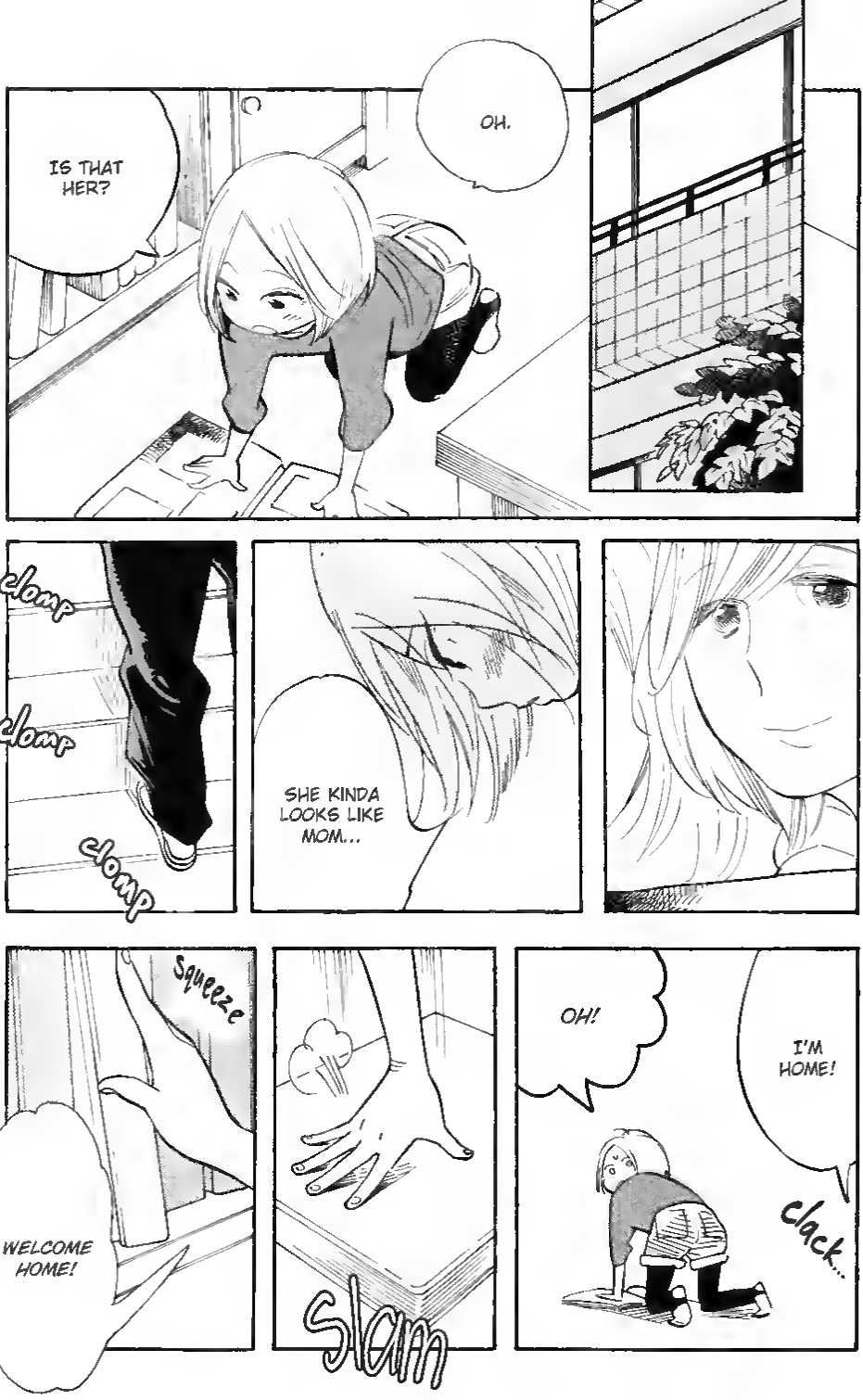
こいいじ

CH 4

By Shimura Takako



Ch 4 Enchanted


IS THAT HER?
OH.
clomp
clomp
clomp
SHE KINDA LOOKS LIKE MOM...
Squeeze
WELCOME HOME!
Slam
OH!
I'M HOME!
clack...

I'LL HELP!
I'LL MAKE DINNER NOW.
SORRY I'M LATE.
SHALL WE HAVE DINNER AT PIETRO?
CAN WE? YAY!
OH YEAH, NEXT WEEK'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.
YES!
THIS TOWN IS CHOCK FULL OF MEMORIES OF HARU-SAN
THAT'S WHERE THE THREE OF US USED TO ALWAYS GO.
YEAH!!

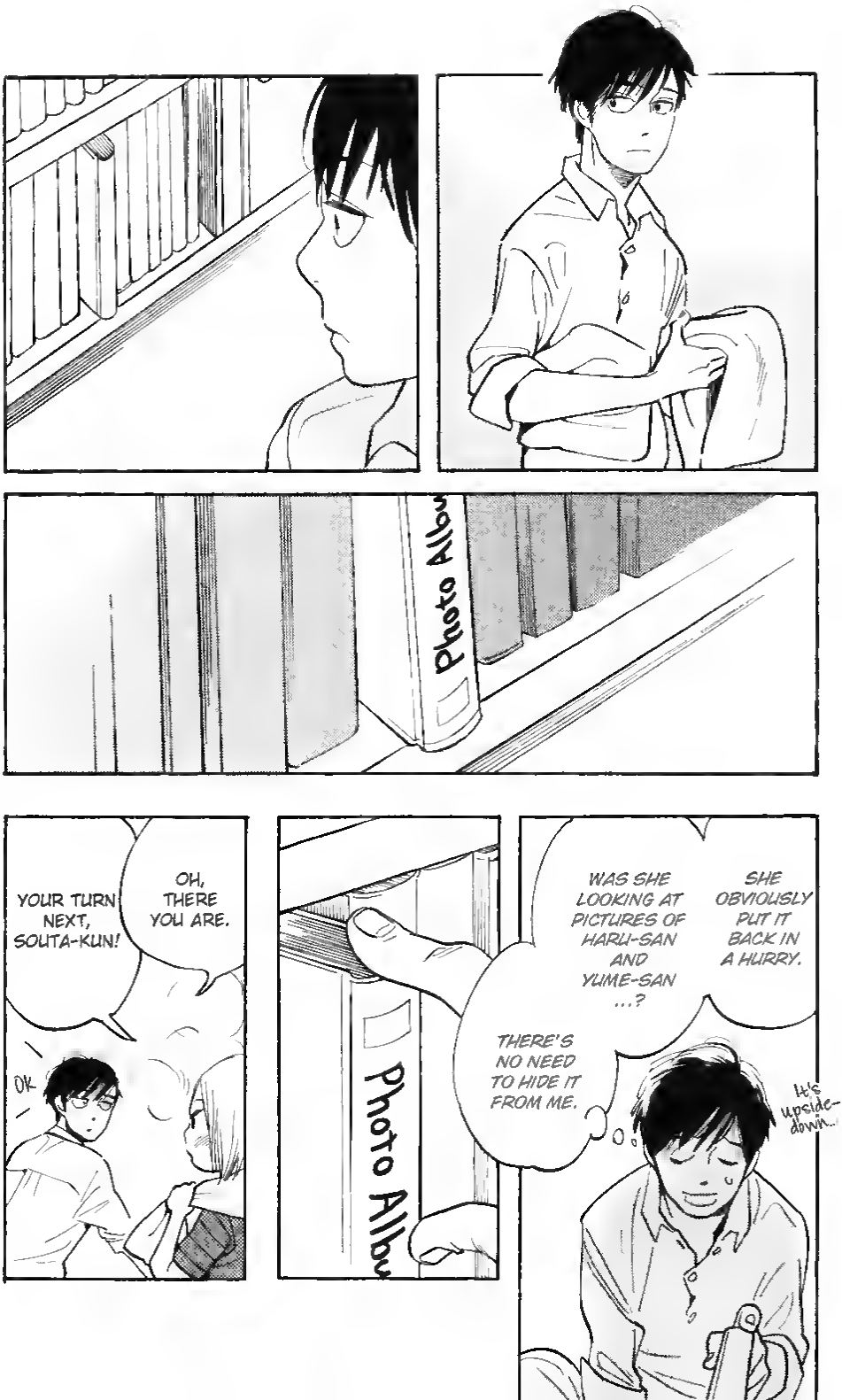
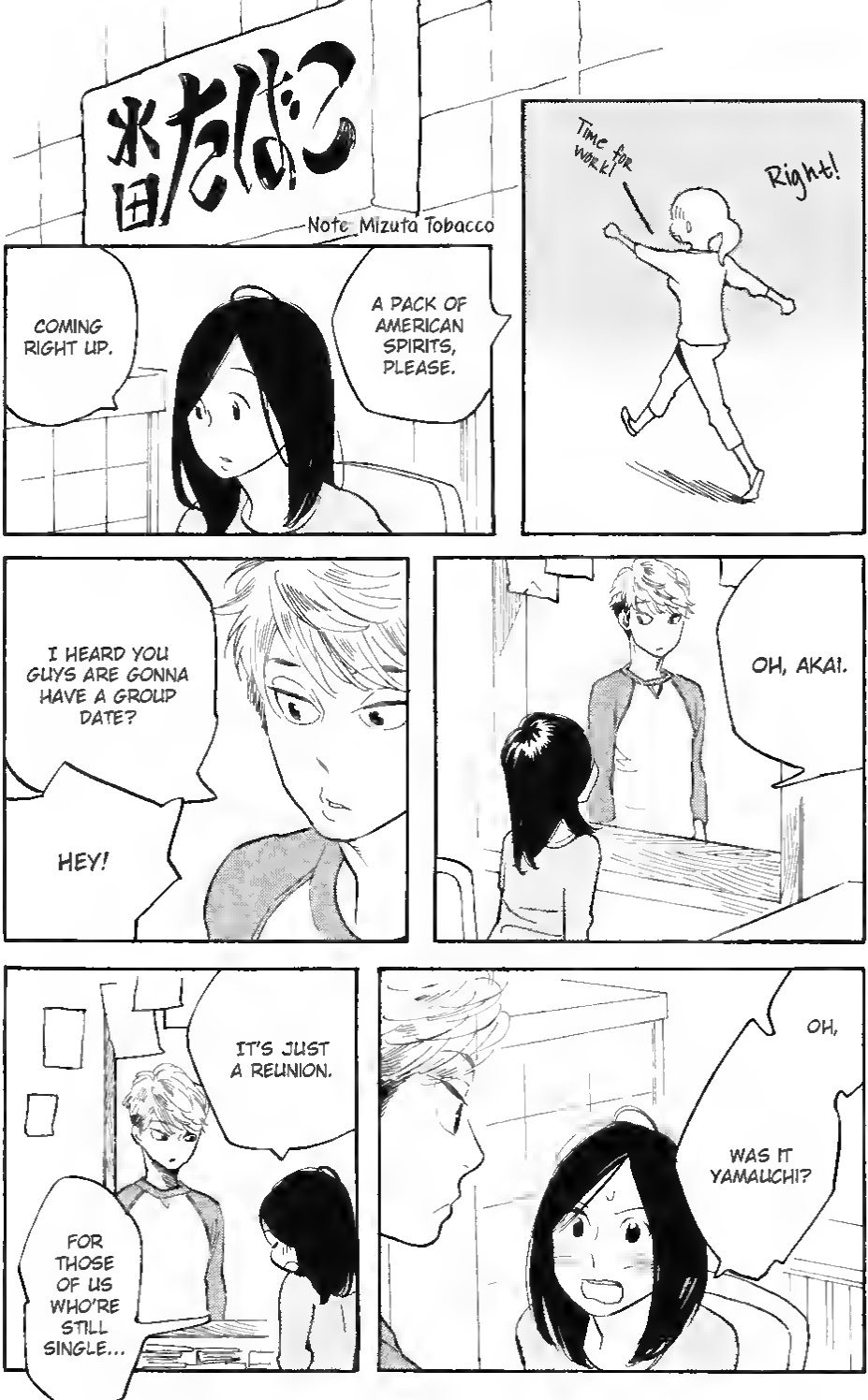


Photo Albu
OH, THERE YOU ARE.
YOUR TURN NEXT, SOUTA-KUN!
OK
Photo Albu
SHE OBVIOUSLY PUT IT BACK IN A HURRY.
WAS SHE LOOKING AT PICTURES OF HARU-SAN AND YUME-SAN ...?
THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE IT FROM ME.
It's upside-down...

PIETRO, RIGHT?
OK.
6 O'CLOCK.
GOT IT.
ITALIAN...
MIRIN
WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S THAT, A REUNION?
OH YEAH, THAT DAY IS...

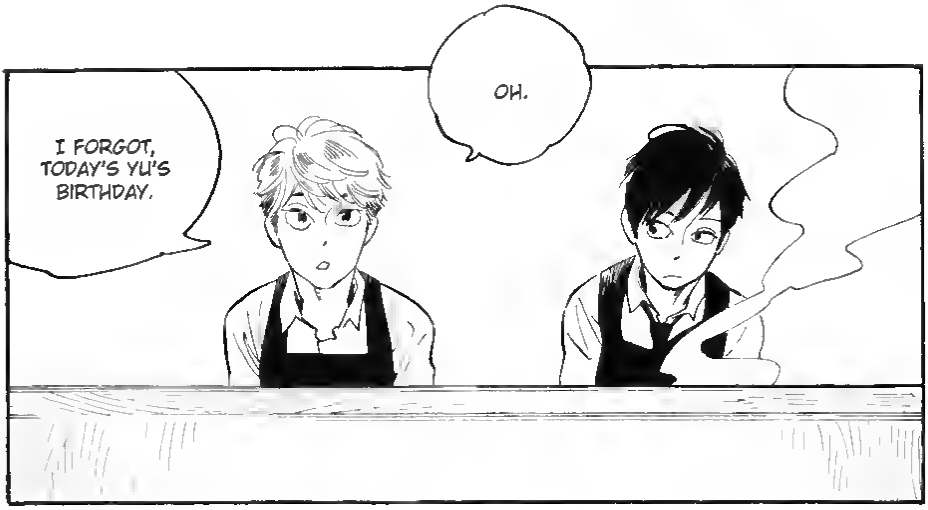
Squeeee!
THIS IS FOR ME!?
WHOOOOOO!!
IT SURE IS. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
COOL! YOU'RE THE FIRST!
OF COURSE I AM, IT'S STILL MORNING, AFTER ALL.
I'M GONNA GO SHOW SOUTA-KUN.
OH, DON'T BOTHER.
I CAN HOLD ONTO IT UNTIL YOU GET BACK FROM SCHOOL.
YOU'D BETTER HURRY.
Oh! But I wanna show him now!
WE'RE GOING OUT TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE.
DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH US?

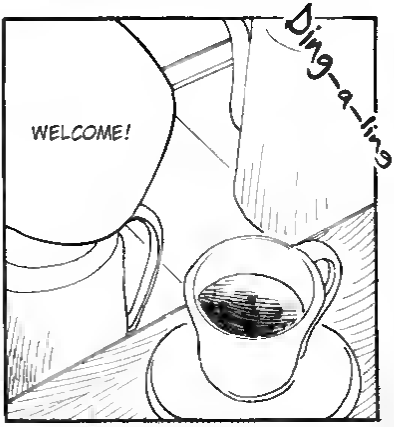
I WISH IT WAS THAT EASY.
YOU SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE FAMILY, TOO...
I HAVE PLANS TONIGHT, TOO.
YOU TWO JUST HAVE A SPECIAL FAMILY DINNER.
We can get cake together another time
SEE YOU LATER!
Thanks for the present!
YEAH, PROBABLY.
IS YOUR SISTER GONNA STAY HERE?
OH YEAH?


水田たばこ
Note_Mizuta Tobacco
COMING RIGHT UP.
A PACK OF AMERICAN SPIRITS, PLEASE.
Time for work!
Right!
I HEARD YOU GUYS ARE GONNA HAVE A GROUP DATE?
HEY!
OH, AKAI.
IT'S JUST A REUNION.
FOR THOSE OF US WHO'RE STILL SINGLE...
OH,
WAS IT YAMAUCHI?

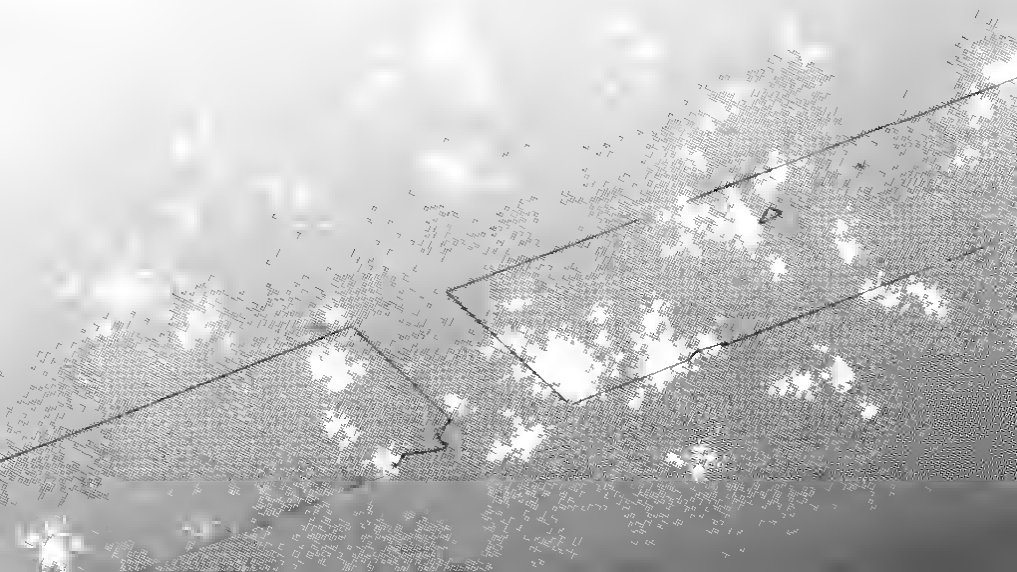
I HEARD YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED. CONGRATULATIONS!
THANKS.
YOU AND TOYAMA AND MICCHAN,
NO ONE'S HOOKING UP WITH FOLKS FROM AROUND HERE...
Micchan works at the bookstore
Where are you always meeting people?
Yep. I was in ch 2
YEAH, WELL, WHEN YOU'VE KNOWN SOMEONE SINCE YOU WERE KIDS...
WE ALL GREW UP TOGETHER, THERE'S NO SURPRISES...
You're not beating around the bush
HUH...?
YOU SAY THAT, BUT THERE'S SOMEONE YOU LIKE, ISN'T THERE?
HUH? SO YOU THINK TONIGHT'LL ALL BE FOR NOTHING?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT'S JUST A REUNION.

YOU USED TO LIKE KYOICHI, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY OBSERVANT, SO I PICK UP ON THESE THINGS.
IT'S YAMAUCHI, RIGHT?
HUH ...!?
WAIT, HUH? HOW'D YOU KNOW...?
WOW, YOU'RE SCARY!!
TRUE. I DID GO THROUGH A KYOICHI PHASE.
WELL, GOOD LUCK.
HOME BREWED COFFEE
Café
CaSa
TODAY'S COFFEE
Brazil 330 yen


I FORGOT, TODAY'S YU'S BIRTHDAY.
OH.


Ding-a-ling
WELCOME!

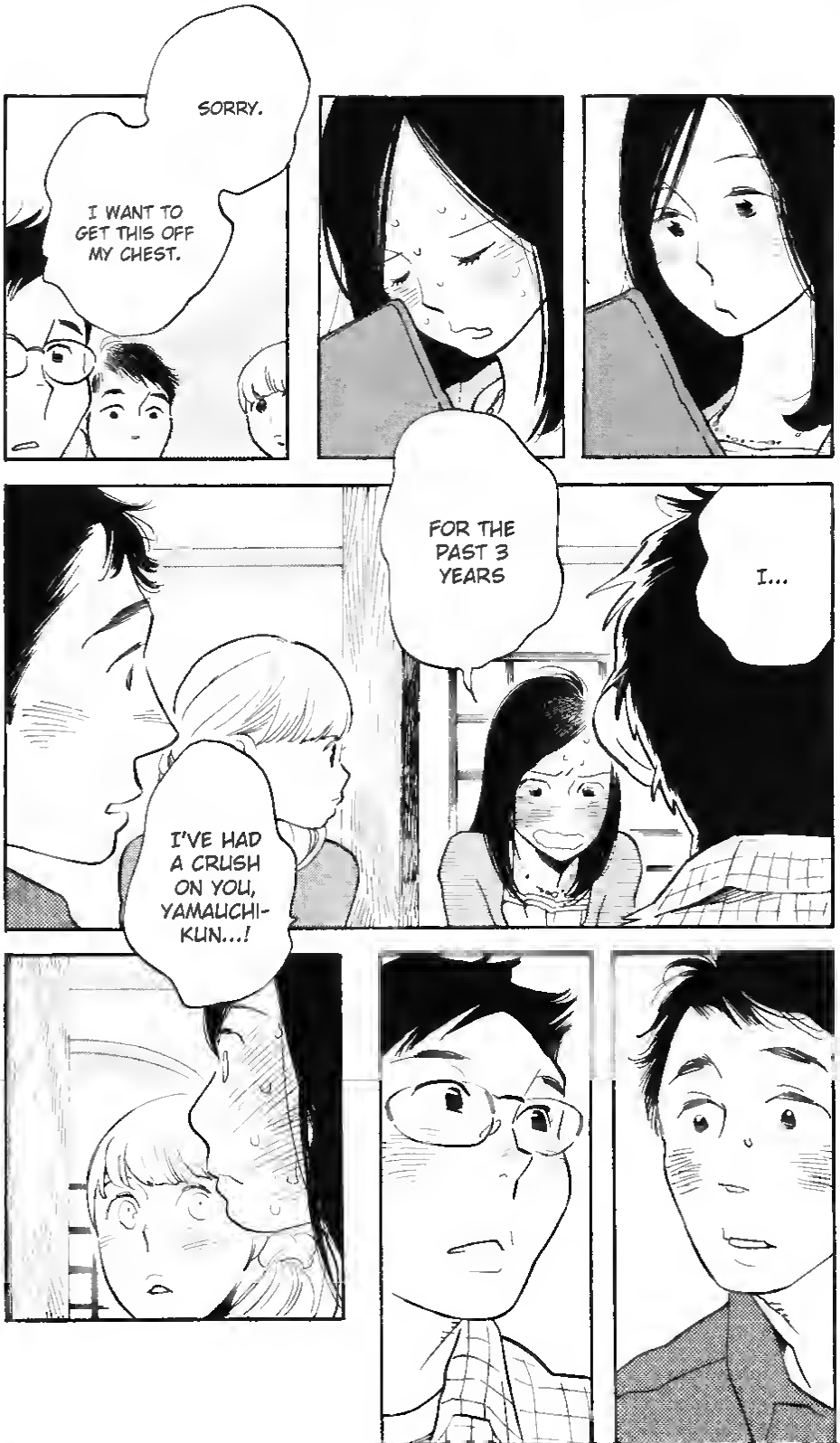
SHIT, I'D BETTER BUY HER SOMETHING.
I'LL STOP SOMEWHERE WHEN I'M ON LUNCH.
KAY.



MAME-CHAN, DON'T YOU NEED TO GET READY?
MIRIN
YOUR DINNER'S AT 6, ISN'T IT?
WHAT'S THIS, A DATE?
I WISH!
Haitian Restaurant
PIETRO

WHAT!?
REALLY!?
SO YAMAUCHI -KUN, HUH...?
DON'T SAY IT.
ANYWAY, AKAI FIGURED IT OUT, WHAT THE HECK!?
Today's Special
YEAH.
I FIGURED I'D BETTER BE HONEST WITH YOU.
WOW...
OH, I JUST GOT AN EMAIL... THEY'LL BE HERE IN ABOUT 5 MINUTES.
OH, SHOULD WE LET YAZAWACCHI IN ON THE SECRET AND GET HIS HELP?
whaa aat !?
bzzz
OK, YUYU. TONIGHT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE.
NO, NO, NO, NO

CHEERS!


SORRY.
I WANT TO GET THIS OFF MY CHEST.
FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS
I...
I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON YOU, YAMAUCHI-KUN...!

I THINK IT HAPPENED WHEN WE WERE MAKING MOCHI ON NEW YEAR'S DAY...
I ALMOST HIT THE EDGE
OF THE STONE MORTAR WITH THE PESTLE,
BUT YOU STUCK YOUR HAND IN AND CAUGHT IT.
thump
I FRACTURED MY HAND AND HAD TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
I totally forgot about that...
I ACTUALLY HAD AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE FOR PLANNING THIS REUNION.
EVERYONE ELSE IS GETTING MARRIED
AND EVEN THOSE OF US WHO ARE STILL SINGLE MIGHT NOT STAY SO FOR LONG,
SO I FIGURED IF I DON'T SAY SOMETHING NOW, I MIGHT NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE.

SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU ALL INTO THIS.
RIGHT!?
NO! GOOD ON YOU FOR GETTING THAT OUT!
CAN WE HAVE A MOMENT... IN PRIVATE?
UM...
WAIT A SEC.
HANG ON.
UM...

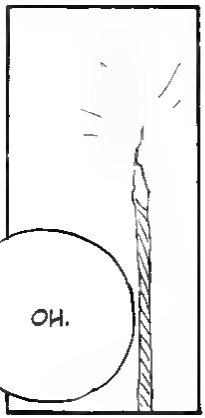
WHOA...
IT'S LIKE WATCHING A DRAMA!
REALLY... WHOA!
RIGHT?
HUH? DID YOU KNOW?
NOT REALLY, I MEAN I JUST FOUND OUT TODAY.
A BIT BEFORE YOU TWO GOT HERE.
OH!
YOU DON'T LIKE HER OR ANYTHING, DO YOU!?
NO, NO. NO WORRIES.
If so, I'm really sorry
BECAUSE I SUGGESTED TELLING YOU AND GETTING YOUR HELP...
I WONDER IF SHE DECIDED TO TELL HIM HERSELF

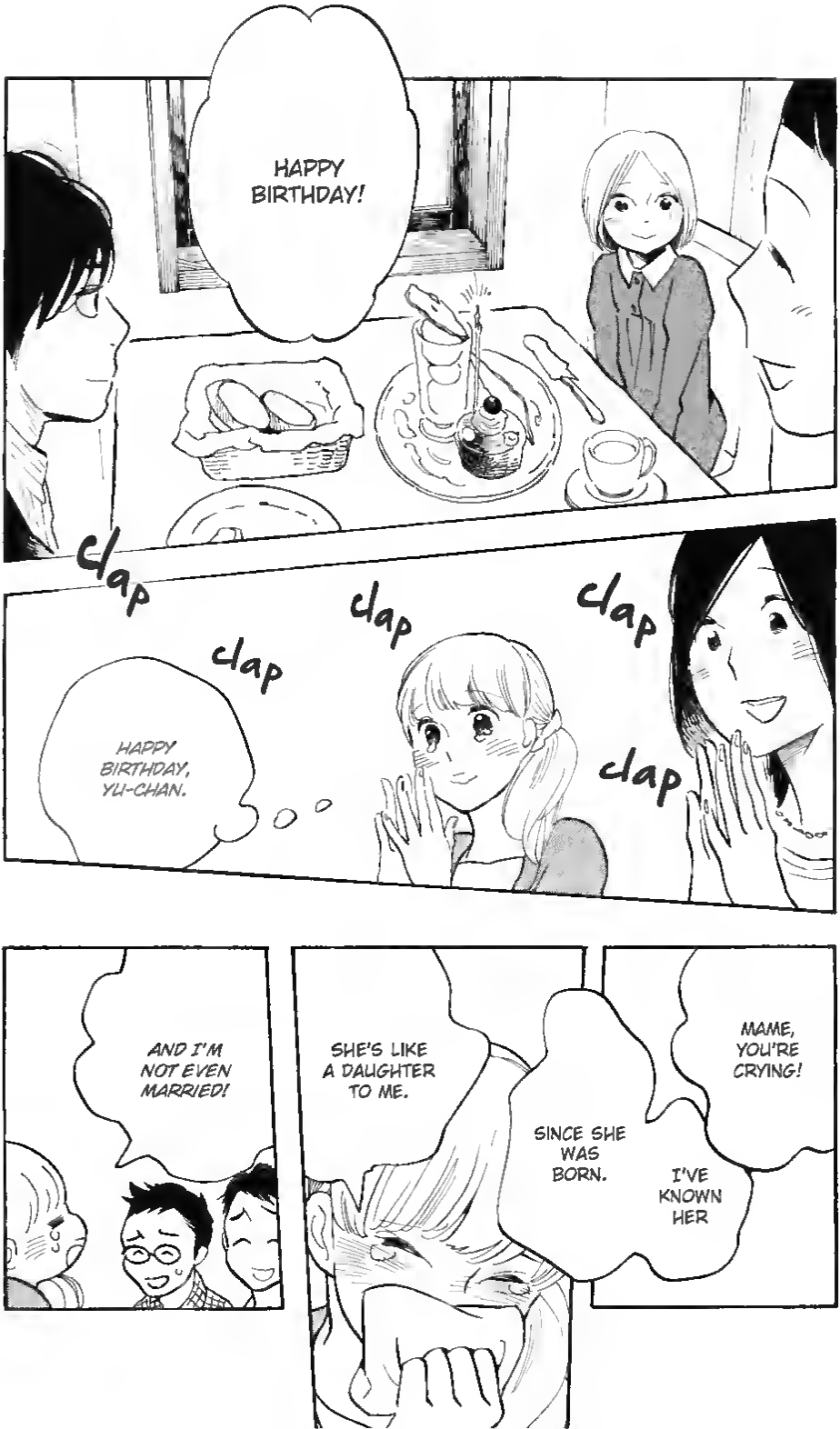
OH, GOOD...
OH, MAME-CHAN.
COME ON, MAME-CHAN'S WITH A FRIEND. LET'S GO FIND OUR TABLE.
WHAT? REALLY?

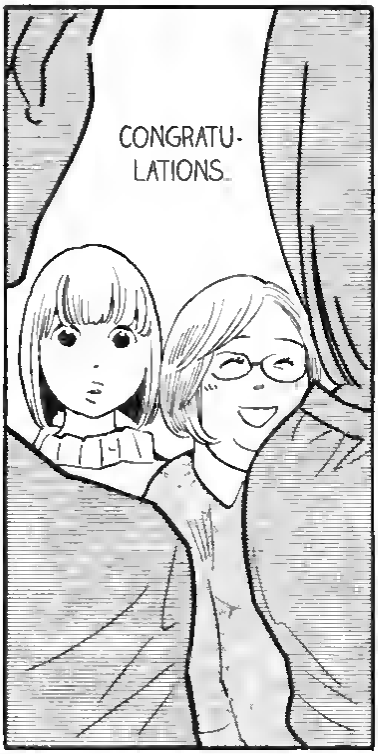
UH, YEAH, MY NEIGHBORS.
FRIENDS OF YOURS?
YOU KNOW THEM, TOO. THAT'S SHUN'S BROTHER.
OH, RIGHT.
And his daughter
I BET ANYTHING
SOU-CHAN THINKS I'M ON A DATE RIGHT NOW...
NOT THAT I GUESS IT MATTERS. BUT...
SO WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU TALK? DID YOU GUYS TALK ABOUT IT!?
OH, THEY'RE BACK.

NOW IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE JUST A COUPLE OF THIRD WHEELS HERE.
RIGHT?
SORRY!
WOW!
THAT'S GREAT! I'M HAPPY FOR YOU BOTH!
COME ON, LET'S HAVE A DRINK.
YEAH!
THAT'S SO RANDOM!!
MAYBE YOU TWO SHOULD START DATING, TOO.
I HAD NO IDEA.
I WONDER HOW SHUN NOTICED.
BUT I NEVER REALIZED SHE FELT THAT WAY.
I WAS THERE THAT DAY, TOO,

Note Amazake is a sweet rice drink often served hot for New Year




HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YU-CHAN.
AND I'M NOT EVEN MARRIED!
SHE'S LIKE A DAUGHTER TO ME.
SINCE SHE WAS BORN.
I'VE KNOWN HER
MAME, YOU'RE CRYING!



CONGRATULATIONS,
EVERYONE.

I'M GOING
TO BE
A FATHER.

MAME.

I'M GETTING
MARRIED.

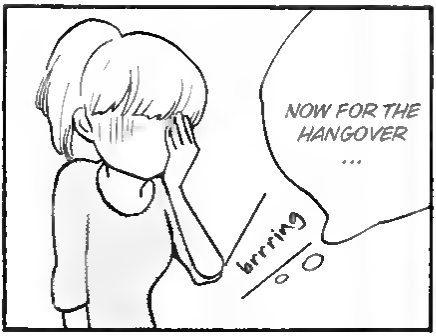
I'M GOING TO THE RESTROOM.
OK, TAKE CARE.
spin
I'D BETTER VISIT THE LADIES ROOM...
OOH...I DRANK TOO MUCH TOO FAST.
...
...
MAME, ARE YOU OK?
THIS
CRAP
IS NOT GOOD.
MY VISION'S GOING BLACK...
MAME?
OH DEAR
AH...

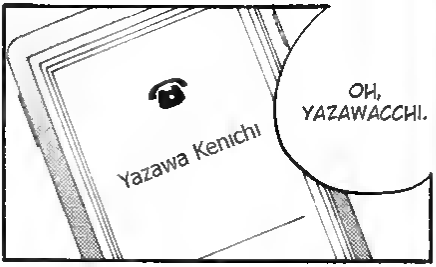
ARE YOU OK?
HUH...?
OH.
SOU-CHAN.
I...SUDDENLY COULDN'T WALK.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?
Right in front of the restroom

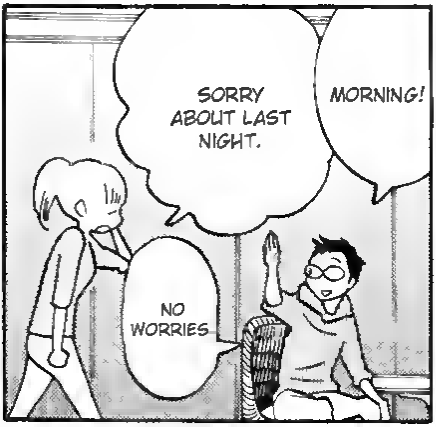
TAKE MY HAND.
I CAN'T...
WHEN I TRY TO WALK, I FEEL SICK.
DUMMY.
BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO SIT DOWN.

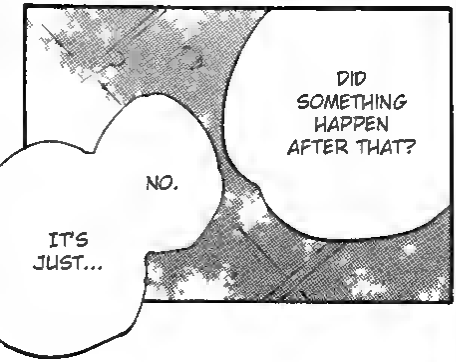
I'LL TAKE HER HOME.
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
Is Mame-chan OK?
D-
DON'T APOLOGIZE!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE SLEEPING OVER!
OH, IT'S OK!
YU... I'M SORRY, YU...
I'M SORRY FOR RUINING YOUR BIRTHDAY, YU...
402
AKA
THANK YOU...
I'LL GET SOME WATER.
I'll go brush my teeth.
HARU-SAN, I'M SORRY









I...

STILL LIKE SOU-CHAN

I LOVE HIM

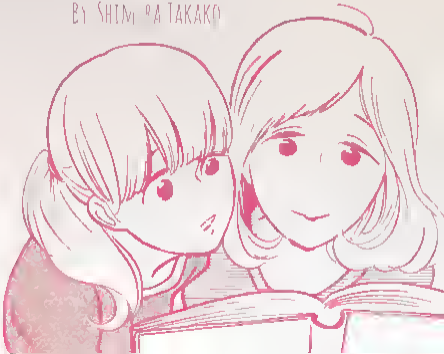
BUT I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING AFTER ALL THAT.
I ACTUALLY DID LIKE YUYU...
WHAT!?
BUT SERIOUSLY...
I MEAN...
YEAH...
IT'D BE ONE THING TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL AND GET TURNED DOWN, BUT THAT KIND OF PUBLIC EXECUTION IS TOUGH.
BUT HE HAD HER BACK WHEN IT HAPPENED
"GOOD ON YOU."
HE'S SO NICE
DO YOU REALLY NEED AN AUDIENCE!?
JUST DROP THE REUNION FARCE AND MEET UP ONE ON ONE!
RIGHT? GIVE ME A BREAK.

I WONDER IF I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO MOVE ON
THANKS FOR LISTENING.
WHEW, GLAD TO GET THAT OFF MY CHEST.
FEELING HIS WARMTH LIKE THAT REALLY DIDN'T HELP.
I STILL HAVEN'T SOBERED UP

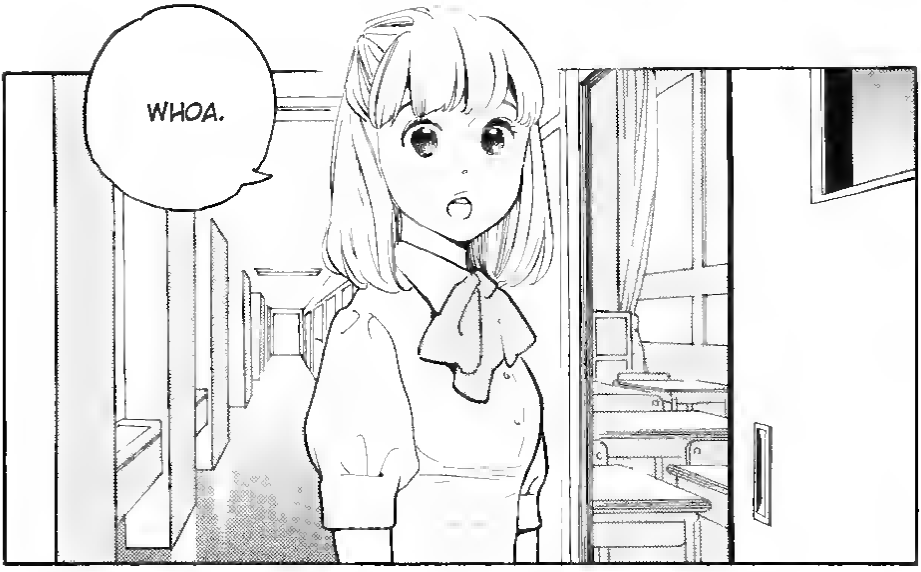
こいいじ

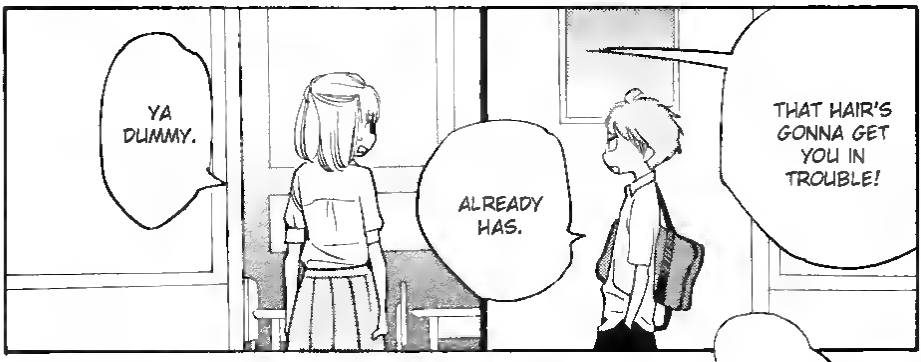
CH 5

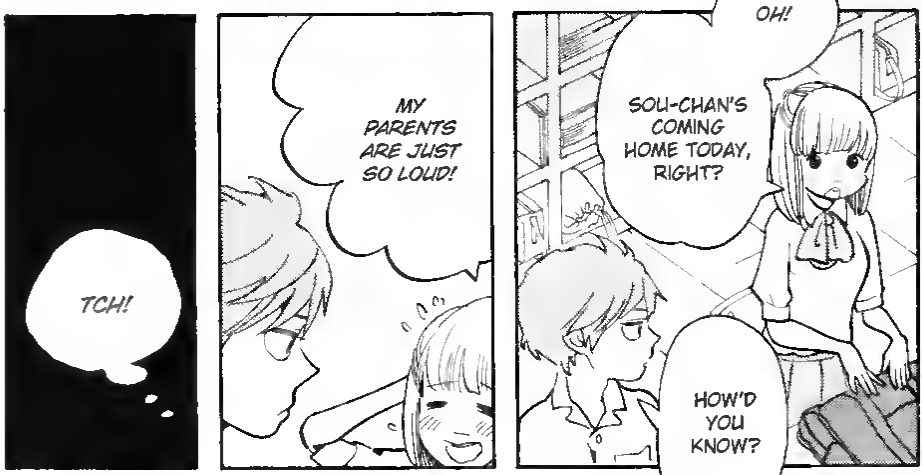
By Shimada Takako



AKAI!
MINE'S NATURAL, TOO.
IT IS NOT, YOU IDIOT!
HIS IS NATURAL. AFTER ALL, HIS MOM'S NOT JAPANESE.
ANYWAY, DYING YOUR HAIR'S AGAINST THE RULES!
I DIDN'T DYE IT. IT'S THE SAME COLOR AS KYOICHI'S.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING DYING YOUR HAIR RED?

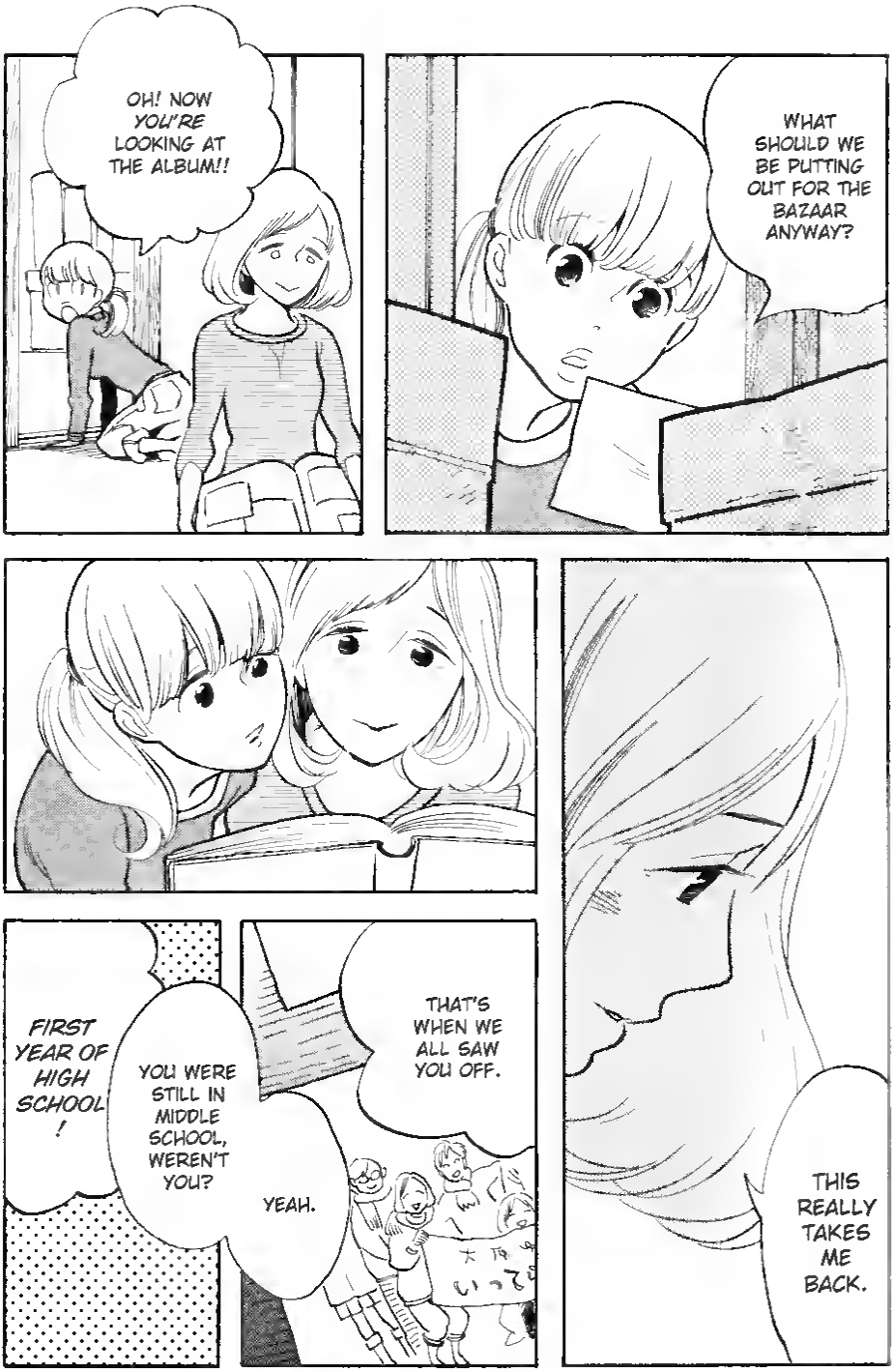

WHOA.

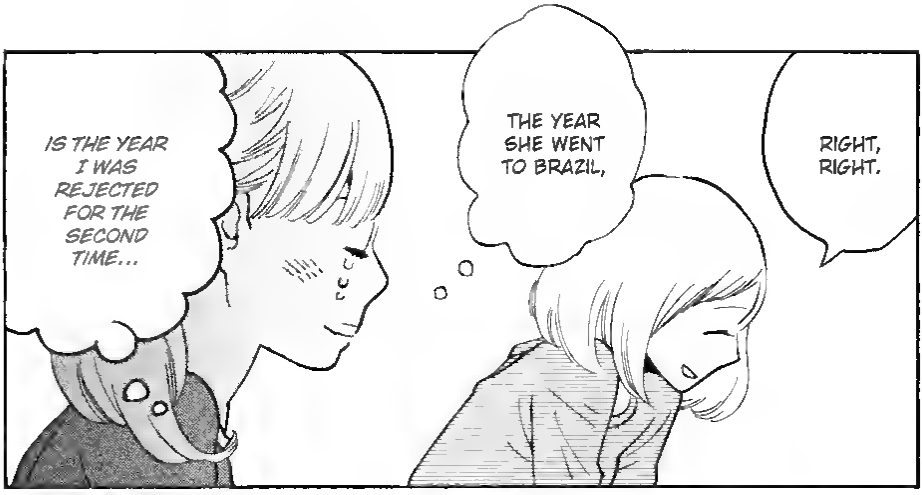

YA DUMMY.
ALREADY HAS.
THAT HAIR'S GONNA GET YOU IN TROUBLE!

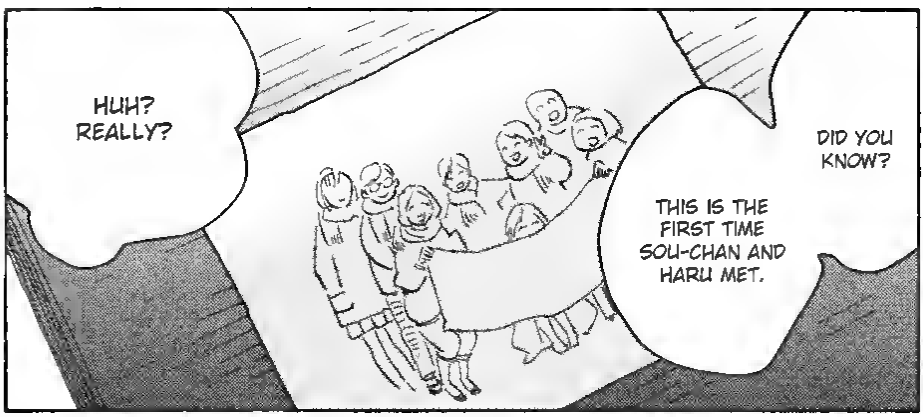

TCH!
MY PARENTS ARE JUST SO LOUD!
OH!
SOU-CHAN'S COMING HOME TODAY, RIGHT?
HOW'D YOU KNOW?

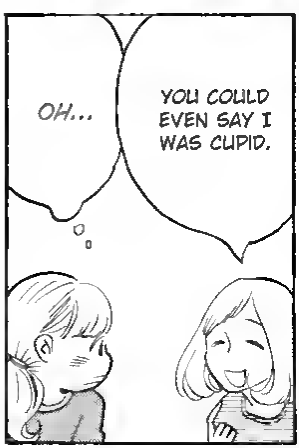
I'M PRETTY OBSERVANT,
SO I SAW THROUGH HIM RIGHT AWAY.
AT THAT TIME,
MY BROTHER WAS GOING TO COLLEGE OUT IN THE BOONIES
IT WAS TOO FAR TO COMMUTE,
SO HE GOT A CHEAP APARTMENT NEAR CAMPUS.
102 AKAI

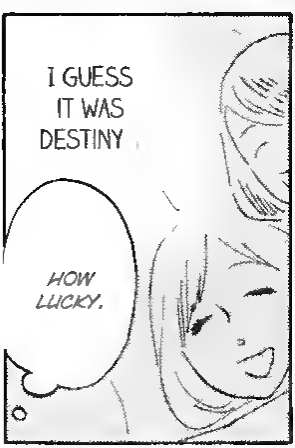
Soap, conditioner, & shampoo available
MAME!
FIND ANYTHING GOOD?
OH! YOU'RE NOT EVEN LOOKING.
I WAS, I JUST FOUND THIS ALBUM AND...
THERE'S SO MUCH TO GO THROUGH UP HERE.

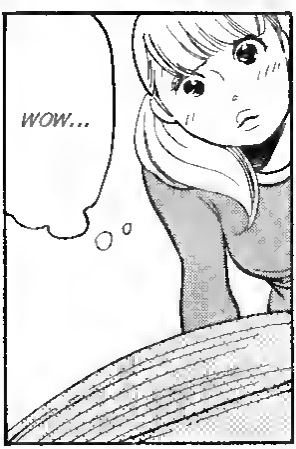

OH! NOW YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE ALBUM!!
WHAT SHOULD WE BE PUTTING OUT FOR THE BAZAAR ANYWAY?
THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK.
THAT'S WHEN WE ALL SAW YOU OFF.
YEAH.
YOU WERE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, WEREN'T YOU?
FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL!


IS THE YEAR I WAS REJECTED FOR THE SECOND TIME...
THE YEAR SHE WENT TO BRAZIL,
RIGHT, RIGHT.


HUH? REALLY?
DID YOU KNOW?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SOU-CHAN AND HARU MET.


OH...
YOU COULD EVEN SAY I WAS CUPID.


I GUESS IT WAS DESTINY
HOW LUCKY.


WOW...

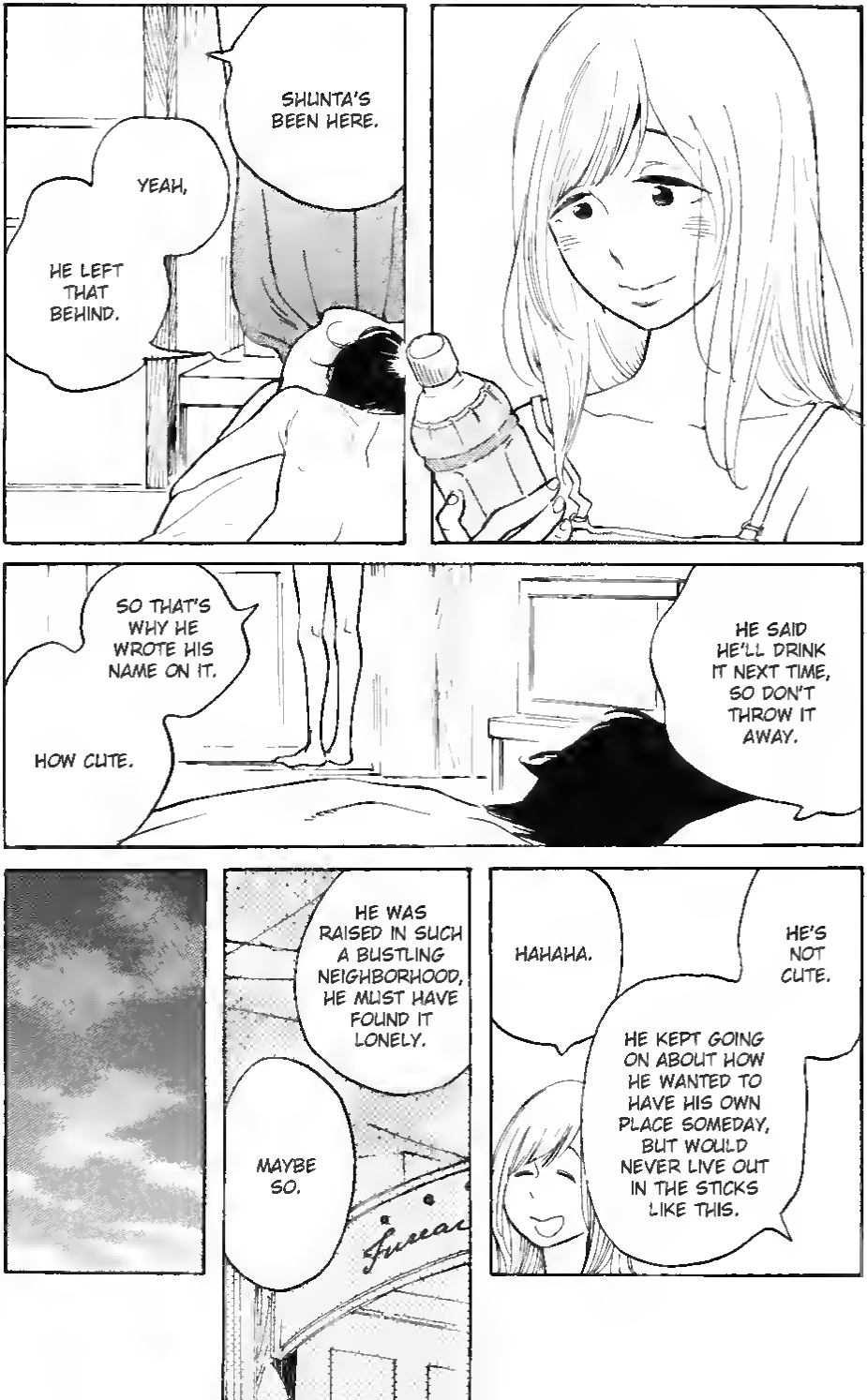
SOU-CHAN HAD AN AWKWARD SMILE ON HIS FACE...
THE SECOND TIME I SAID I LOVED HIM,
BUT THAT HE'D ALREADY STARTED DATING HARU-SAN
MAYBE IT WASN'T
A CLASSMATE HE WAS DATING,
SO, OF COURSE,
HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT HER.

Mame, don't doze off!
Damn it.
I FEEL LIKE HE'S NEVER BEEN WITHOUT A GIRLFRIEND...
I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY CLEAR MEMORIES OF THEIR WEDDING.
I MEAN,
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW THEY GOT TOGETHER.
IS THAT THE ROAST BEEF I ATE WHILE DESPERATELY TRYING NOT TO CRY WAS REALLY DELICIOUS.
ALL I REALLY REMEMBER

rumble..
THIS REALLY IS THE STICKS...
HEY.

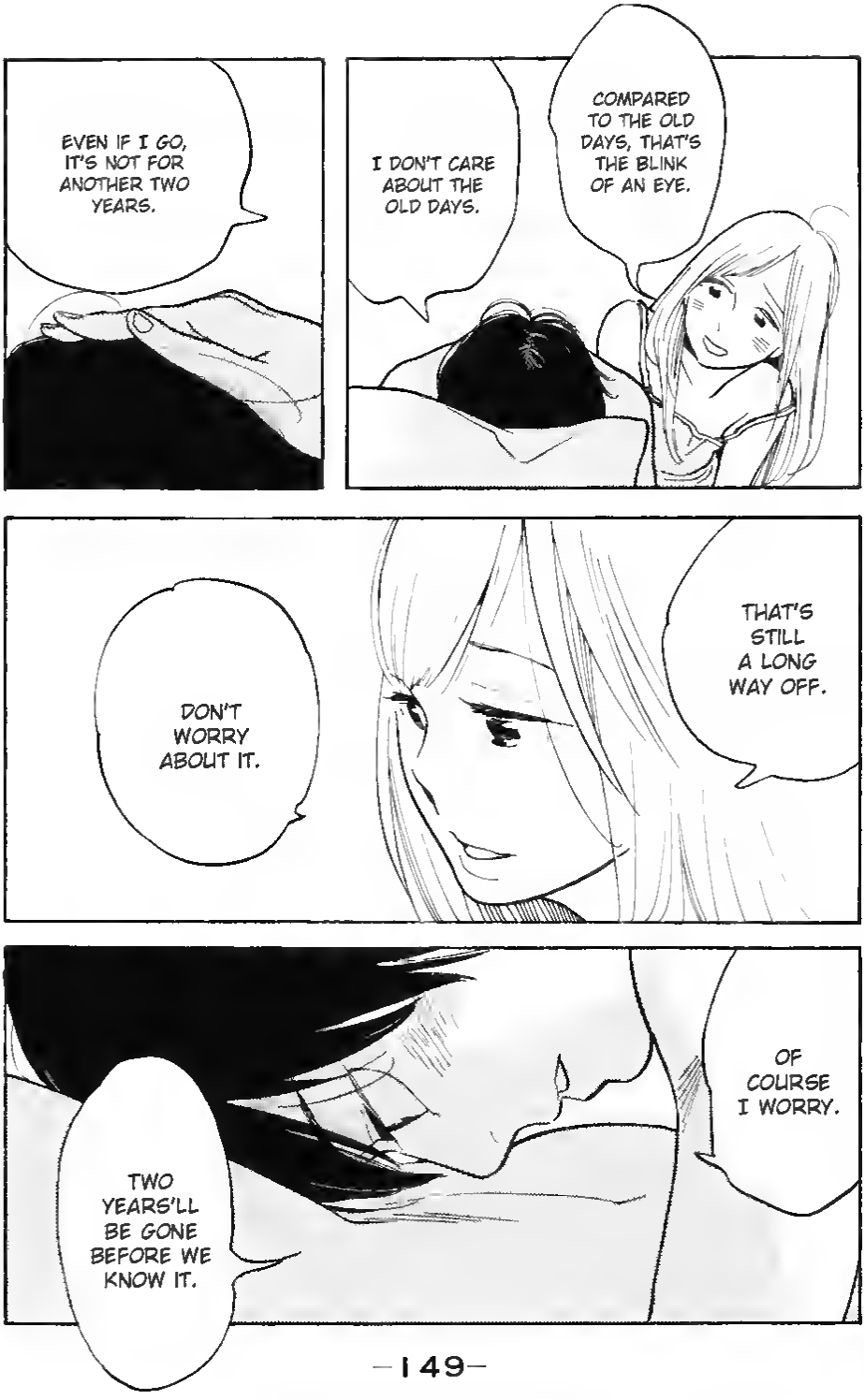
THE BARLEY TEA'S NOT COLD YET. YOU WANNA GO GET SOMETHING FROM THE VENDING MACHINE?
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO BAD-MOUTH THIS PLACE.
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE WAITING OUT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO MEET YOU AT THE BUS STOP.
So I just came in my own
HAS SOMEONE BEEN HERE RECENTLY?
NO REASON.
I JUST WONDERED.
WHY DO YOU ASK?
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE OR OTHER OVER.

102
rattle
Shun's
RINGE.

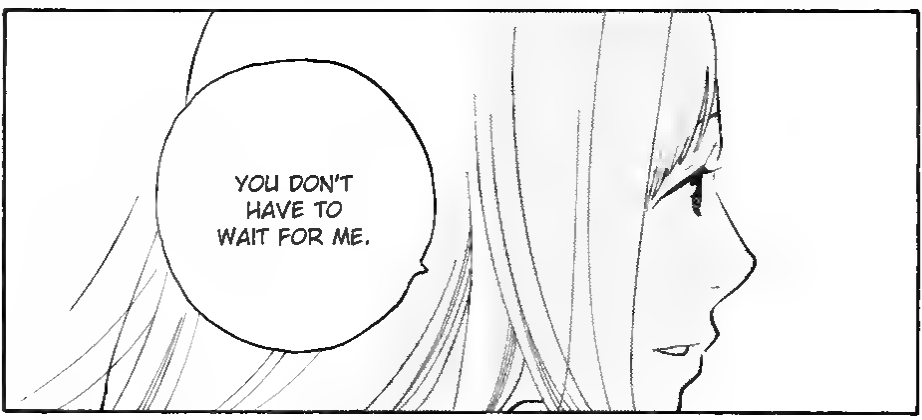

SHUNTA'S BEEN HERE.
YEAH, HE LEFT THAT BEHIND.
SO THAT'S WHY HE WROTE HIS NAME ON IT.
HOW CUTE.
HE SAID HE'LL DRINK IT NEXT TIME, SO DON'T THROW IT AWAY.
HE WAS RAISED IN SUCH A BUSTLING NEIGHBORHOOD, HE MUST HAVE FOUND IT LONELY.
MAYBE SO.
HAHAHA.
HE'S NOT CUTE.
HE KEPT GOING ON ABOUT HOW HE WANTED TO HAVE HIS OWN PLACE SOMEDAY, BUT WOULD NEVER LIVE OUT IN THE STICKS LIKE THIS.

I KIND OF LIKE THIS SCENERY, THOUGH.
WAH!
YOU ALWAYS WANT TO LEAVE RIGHT AWAY.
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?

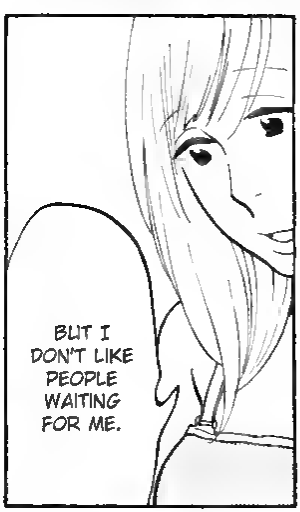
JUST ENJOY THE AFTERGLOW A LITTLE LONGER.
ARE YOU REALLY SET ON GOING?
YOU'RE SUCH A ROMANTIC, SOU-CHAN.
Japan
Brazil
WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE IT'S ONLY A 24-HOUR FLIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S TOO FAR AWAY.
IT'S THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.
YEAH, I AM.

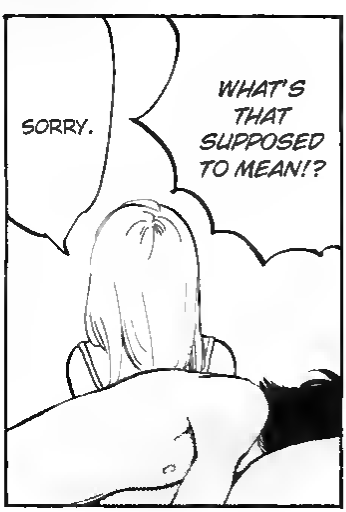

EVEN IF I GO, IT'S NOT FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE OLD DAYS.
COMPARED TO THE OLD DAYS, THAT'S THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THAT'S STILL A LONG WAY OFF.
TWO YEARS'LL BE GONE BEFORE WE KNOW IT.
OF COURSE I WORRY.

HOW LONG SHOULD I WAIT?


YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR ME.

LIFE IS FULL OF GOODBYES.
SO THEY SAY.
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT.


BUT I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME.

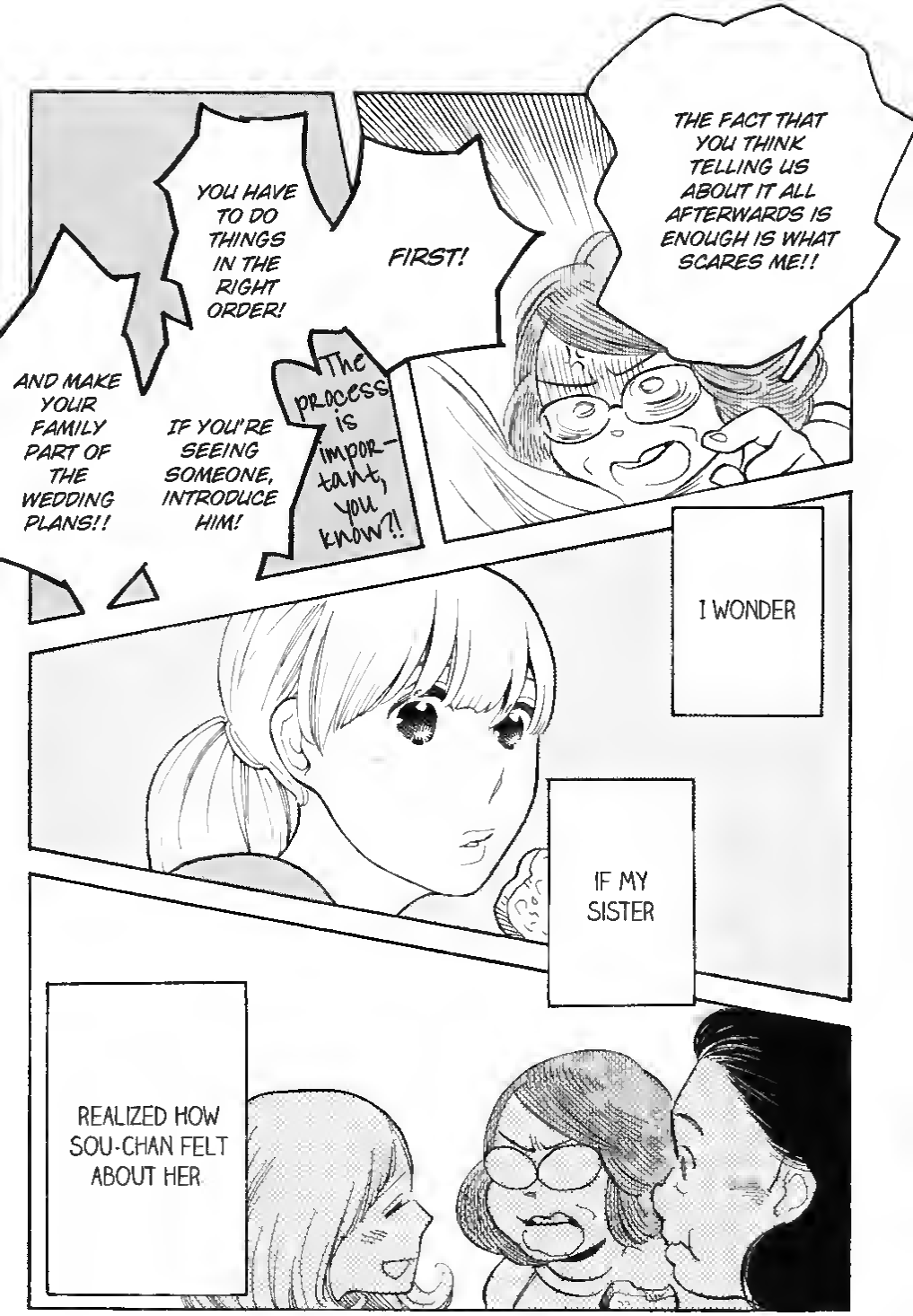

SORRY.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

YOU'RE STILL A MINOR.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN.
WHEN'D YOU START SMOKING?
WHOA, CIGARETTES.
YOU'RE GROWING UP SO FAST.

THREE.
YOU CAN HAVE THE TABLE IN THE CORNER.

WELCOME.
ding-a-ling

THIS IS MY NEPHEW.
HMM...
HAVEN'T YOU EVER WANTED TO GET MARRIED, YUME-CHAN?
YOU'RE NOT ONE TO TALK, EITHER, AT YOUR AGE.
YOU SEE?
HE'S DIVORCED,
BUT HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON. PROBABLY.
Just a little weak-willed
IT'S NOT THAT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
DON'T TELL ME YOU WENT AND GOT MARRIED OVER THERE OR SOMETHING...
HAHA,
NO, NO.
I'D DEFINITELY TELL YOU ABOUT THAT.
SEE!? SEE WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!?

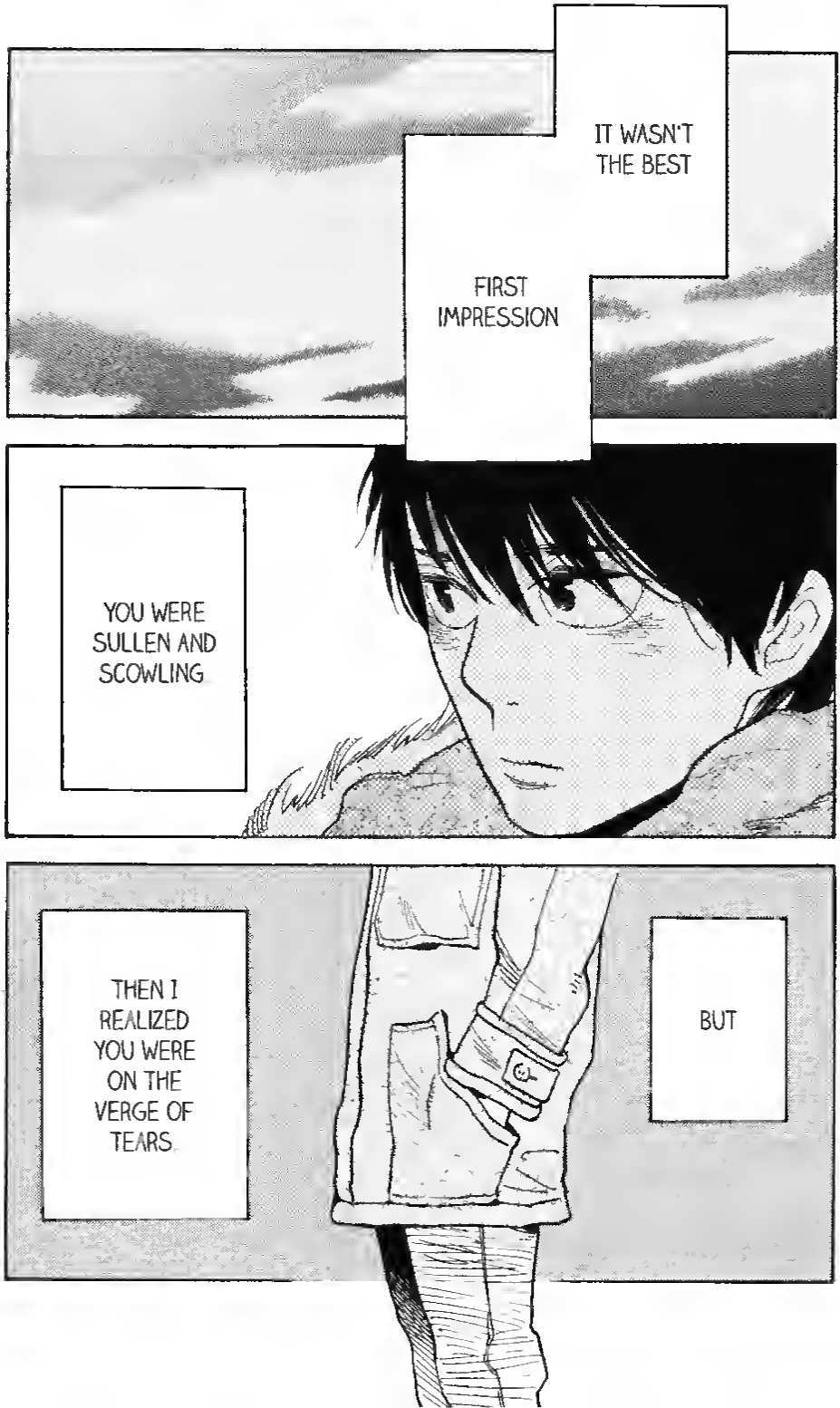

THE FACT THAT YOU THINK TELLING US ABOUT IT ALL AFTERWARDS IS ENOUGH IS WHAT SCARES ME!!
FIRST!
YOU HAVE TO DO THINGS IN THE RIGHT ORDER!
The process is impor-tant, you know?!
IF YOU'RE SEEING SOMEONE, INTRODUCE HIM!
AND MAKE YOUR FAMILY PART OF THE WEDDING PLANS!!
I WONDER
IF MY SISTER
REALIZED HOW SOU-CHAN FELT ABOUT HER

BUT THAT HAND....
THOUGH IT'S STILL JUST SPECULATION ON MY PART
Hello
1010
IF SHE FALLS FOR HIM?
WHAT WILL I DO
AND THAT FACE....

I MEAN, I'VE GOT FRIENDS WHO'VE ALREADY HAD TWO KIDS.
AND...
WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT MYSELF FOR BEING UNABLE TO MOVE ON FROM THIS GRADE-SCHOOL CRUSH...?

HEY! OVER HERE! I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT IN TIME!
THERE'S SOU-CHAN! THERE HE IS!
OH!
THIS IS MATSUJIMA -SAN AND TANAKA -SAN
FROM MY CLUB.
Hello
Hi
AND THIS IS MIKI-CHAN AND TAKEPON.
AND MY FRIEND HARU-CHAN.
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT GETTING TO SAY GOODBYE.

NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M AKAI SOUTA...


IT WASN'T THE BEST
FIRST IMPRESSION
YOU WERE SULLEN AND SCOWLING
THEN I REALIZED YOU WERE ON THE VERGE OF TEARS
BUT

THAT WAS THE FACE OF SOMEONE TRYING NOT TO CRY
HE SMILED FOR ME! I WAS SO NERVOUS.
HOW IS HE? FRIENDLY?
THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT?
HE SMILED!!
GOO
GOO

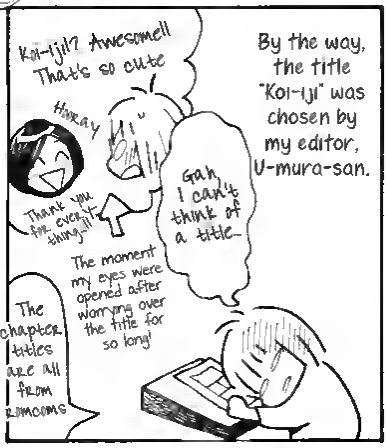
YEAH...
IT WAS JUST A WILD GUESS AT THE TIME.
BUT LOOKING BACK, I WAS PRETTY PERCEPTIVE.
OOH... GIVE ME A BREAK.
SORRY, I WON'T BRING IT UP ANYMORE.
HUH?
THAT I WAS ABOUT TO CRY.
YUME WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE, WASN'T SHE?
...YOU'RE REALLY TWISTING THE KNIFE.
IT'S OK FOR YOU TO TREASURE THAT.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN ME AN ANSWER.

WILL YOU MARRY ME OR WON'T YOU?
BUT YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH YUME...
IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS.

UGH.
UGHHH!
THAT'S JUST HOW SHE IS!
IT'S ONLY BEEN FOUR YEARS!!
YOU LOVED HER SINCE YOU WERE A KID!
FOUR YEARS IS NOTHING!
YOUR SISTER ASKED WHEN WE WERE GETTING MARRIED.
SHE'S ALWAYS LEAPING TO CONCLUSIONS...
AT THAT MOMENT, MAME-SAN WAS
By the way
IS IT OK TO GIVE SOMEONE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT IF THEY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND? WHAT SHOULD I DO???
worry
worry

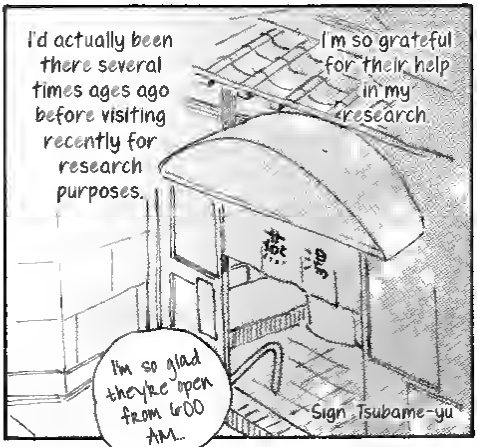
The model for Mame-chan's family business, Suzume-yu Bath, is Tsubame-yu in Ueno.

JR Okachi-machi

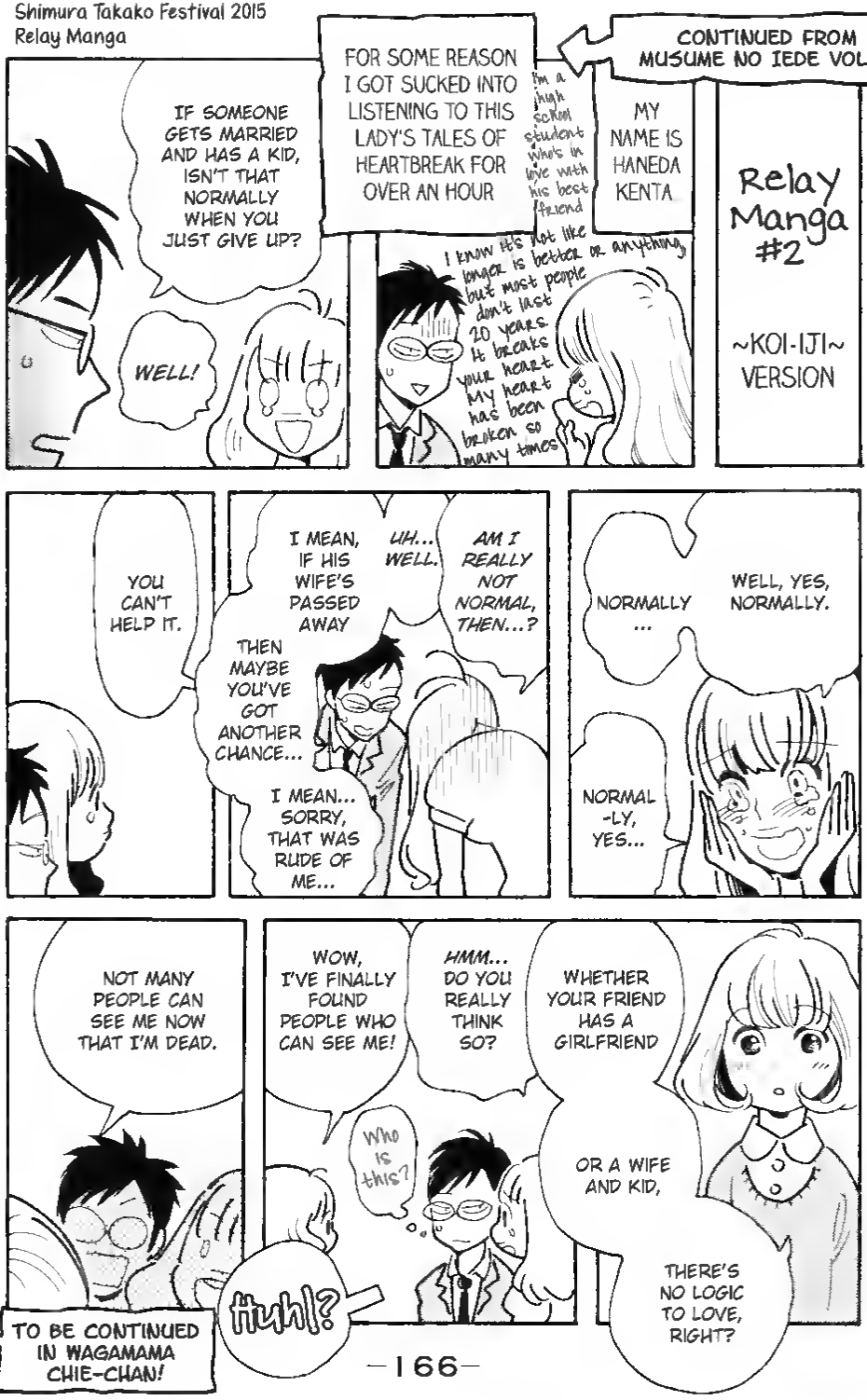

Koi-iji? Awesome!! That's so cute
Hooray
Thank you for everything!!
Gah, I can't think of a title-
The moment my eyes were opened after worrying over the title for so long!
The chapter titles are all from limericks
By the way, the title "Koi-iji" was chosen by my editor, U-mura-san.

Thank you for reading Koi-iji #1 all the way to the end!
This is the fastest I've ever put out a tankobon in my career, so I was quite surprised.
That's supposed to be a wooden fork
This is how I see myself lately. A dango...?

So many people have helped make Koi-iji a reality. I look forward to seeing you again in the future.
Ogura-san, Himeko-san, thank you so much for your help every month!
...
Hey, you're gonna let Mame-chan and Souta-kun get married, right? Right? Right?


I'd actually been there several times ages ago before visiting recently for research purposes.
I'm so grateful for their help in my research.
I'm so glad they're open from 6:00 am.
Sign: Tsubame-yu

Shimura Takako


CONTINUED FROM MUSUME NO IEDE VOL.2!
Relay Manga #2
~KOI-IJI~ VERSION
MY NAME IS HANEDA KENTA
I'm a high school student who's in love with his best friend
FOR SOME REASON I GOT SUCKED INTO LISTENING TO THIS LADY'S TALES OF HEARTBREAK FOR OVER AN HOUR
IF SOMEONE GETS MARRIED AND HAS A KID, ISN'T THAT NORMALLY WHEN YOU JUST GIVE UP?
WELL!
I know it's not like longer is better or anything, but most people don't last 20 years. It breaks your heart. My heart has been broken so many times
YOU CAN'T HELP IT.
I MEAN, IF HIS WIFE'S PASSED AWAY
UH... WELL.
AM I REALLY NOT NORMAL, THEN...?
THEN MAYBE YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER CHANCE...
I MEAN... SORRY, THAT WAS RUDE OF ME...
NORMALLY ...
WELL, YES, NORMALLY.
NORMAL -LY, YES...
NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN SEE ME NOW THAT I'M DEAD.
WOW, I'VE FINALLY FOUND PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE ME!
HMM... DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
Who is this?
WHETHER YOUR FRIEND HAS A GIRLFRIEND
OR A WIFE AND KID,
THERE'S NO LOGIC TO LOVE, RIGHT?
Huh!?
TO BE CONTINUED IN WAGAMAMA CHIE-CHAN!